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UNCOLLECTED LETTERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

UNCOLLECTED LETTERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

NOW FIRST BROUGHT TOGETHER BY
GILBERT A. TRACY

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
IDA M. TARBELL

BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
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1917

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THIS VOLUME OF LETTERS
WRITTEN BY
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS DEDICATED TO
FIVE NOBLE-HEARTED LINCOLN-ADMIRERS
JESSE W. WEIK
JUDD STEWART
IDA M. TARBELL
CHARLES W. McLELLAN
HUGH McLELLAN
IN GRATITUDE FOR VALUABLE ASSISTANCE
RENDERED TO THE COMPILER

Preface

THE supreme object in collecting copies of these unpublished and uncollected letters of Abraham Lincoln is to make his published writings — speeches, letters, and state papers — as complete as possible, in the belief that they will represent the remarkable character and exalted greatness of the man better than any biography of him possibly can, and will form not only a memorial but a monument to his greatness and renown more enduring than granite or bronze. It has been a passion with the compiler of these letters, most intense and profound, to *complete* and *consummate* the work of collecting these valuable letters. Abraham Lincoln in the qualities of mind and heart is the most deeply beloved man the world has ever known; and he stands without a peer in the sphere of his sublime greatness, as an astute politician, sagacious diplomat, and matchless statesman.

No time or expense has been spared in searching for these letters in private hands, historical societies, autograph catalogues, newspaper files, and magazines; solicitation has been extended to many Lincoln collectors and private persons, and

none has turned a deaf ear to the appeal except Ex-Governor Richard Yates, who has refused to give copies of the six letters in his possession written by Mr. Lincoln to his honored father, the Civil War governor; on the contrary, the compiler has received many courtesies and valuable assistance from many collectors and friends of the enterprise.

This fascinating labor has not been without its compensation and personal enjoyment making it a holiday pastime, and augmenting the circle of my friends whom it is a pleasure and delight to know; and I here acknowledge my personal indebtedness to many private citizens; and especially to Miss Caroline M. McIlvaine, the efficient secretary and librarian of the Chicago Historical Society; to Mr. Charles W. McLellan and his son, Hugh McLellan, famous Lincoln collectors; to the noble-hearted biographer of Lincoln, Jesse W. Weik, Esq.; and not the least though the last, to the prince of Lincoln collectors, Mr. Judd Stewart, to whom I owe more than I am able to express in words of gratitude. To all these friends I extend my warmest appreciation and heartiest thanks.

The compiler hopes that some enterprising publisher, at no distant day, will deem it for his interest and that of the reading public to take the Gettysburg Edition of the *Complete Works* (by far the fullest and most complete), divest it of all pictorial embellishment and extraneous matter, —

eulogies, addresses, etc., — and give to future generations an authorized, standard edition of Lincoln's *Complete Works*, with the latest addition of discovered letters, in handsome typography for all coming time.

GILBERT A. TRACY

PUTNAM, CONN.,
June, 1917

Editor's Note

THE editor of this volume has had little to do but arrange the letters in chronological order and supply the few footnotes that seemed desirable. No attempt has been made in the notes to correlate the letters with the known facts of Lincoln's life or with the history of the times. The aim has been only to identify so far as possible the less well-known persons addressed or mentioned and to give some information as to the present ownership of the letters and, when they have been previously published, the place of publication. Readers familiar with the ways of collectors know how constantly Lincoln autographs are changing hands and how impossible it would be to account for the whereabouts of a large number of these letters.

F. H. A.

Illustrations

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From the painting by Douglas Volk, N.A.

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Introduction

ALL that concerns Abraham Lincoln is dear and sacred; particularly is this so of his written words. Few men have been able to give to what they set down more clarity and more of personal flavor. Thus the thing that is dear to us because it is his delights us because of its quality. Moreover, nothing that he wrote is without importance. However slight, it may serve as a link; whatever it is, it adds something to our knowledge of his way of thinking, of his way of dealing with men, of the kind of activities which engaged him. Even a single new piece is sure to attract the attention of the large group that study his life. A collection of new pieces such as Mr. Tracy presents in this volume is as valuable as it is unexpected.

It is surprising that such a collection should be possible at this date. At least twice before it has been said and believed by publishers, "Here is all he wrote." Nicolay and Hay entitled their two volumes of letters and speeches, published in 1894, *Complete Works*. The editor of the Gettysburg Edition, published in 1906, claimed, and of course believed, that he was making a final edition of Lincoln's works. The Gettysburg Edition was a prelude to the one hundredth anniversary of

Lincoln's birth. In spite of all of the close and conscientious collecting that had been done, the anniversary brought from hiding letter after letter of which the best-informed students had known nothing. Fortunate, indeed, it is that there was a Lincoln-lover with leisure and inclination at once to take advantage of this new crop.

Mr. Gilbert A. Tracy, who gives us this volume, was admirably fitted for such a work. A clerk in the War Department from 1863 to 1868, he had watched Mr. Lincoln many a day and many a night as he passed to and fro between the White House and the telegraph offices when news of battle was coming in. He had seen him about the streets of Washington, had heard his second inaugural and his last speech. There had been born in him, as in so many of those days, an affection and a reverence which time has only enlarged and mellowed. Mr. Tracy left Washington to become a Connecticut farmer, but hard work never prevented his following closely everything published concerning Lincoln. Old age gave him leisure. When he realized that the anniversary of 1909 was bringing out much that was new he promptly began to gather the pieces. They multiplied on his hands, and he finally decided that he would make it his business to bring together into a supplementary volume everything not to be found in one of the two so-called "complete works" of Lincoln. This

book is a contribution of love to the memory of the most beloved of Americans.

One might naturally suppose that, coming at so late a date and after so much thorough work from those best placed to know what Lincoln had written, all Mr. Tracy could do would be to make a collection of fragments or of slight and temporary notes — pieces that earlier collectors regarded as having no other value than that of the autograph. This is wrong. There are many letters here of which any historian might be proud to say, "I first published that." There is no period or activity of Mr. Lincoln's life that they do not illuminate. They add to our knowledge of him as a man, a friend, a lawyer, a politician, and a statesman. They even add two names to the index of his correspondents and friends.

There is a goodly number of legal letters, several of them emphasizing what we already know, that Lincoln habitually drove law and politics in the same yoke. He was a careful lawyer and a no less careful politician. He let no source of information escape him. He gathered and passed on political news and plans in the same letters in which he reported on cases to the various lawyers with whom he was associated in the various towns on the old Eighth Circuit. Of his cleverness, his fairness, and his continued zest in the political game these letters give ample illustration.

The collection is surprisingly rich in letters bearing on the important period from 1858 to 1861, the years in which he competed with Douglas for the senatorship and failed, and in which he became a candidate for the Presidency and succeeded. There are some interesting glimpses of his own private opinion of Douglas. "His tactics just now in part is," he writes a friend in July of 1858, "to make it appear that he is having a triumphal entry into and march through the country; but it is all as bombastic and hollow as Napoleon's letters sent back from his campaign in Russia."

As fine a contribution as there is in the collection is Lincoln's discussion in the several letters to R. M. Corwine, of Cincinnati, of his (Lincoln's) chances of winning the nomination to the Presidency at Chicago. They were written in April and May before the convention. The candor of their introduction is delightful. "Remembering that when a not very great man begins to be mentioned for a very great position, his head is very likely to be a little turned, I concluded I am not the fittest person to answer the questions you ask." With this admission he proceeds in entire frankness to tell just what he thinks of the chances of the various candidates in Illinois, himself included.

A delightful feature of the collection is the addition it makes to our impression of Lincoln's way of life and his relations with his friends. There is so

little in his writing about his marriage and his wife, for instance, that it interests one to read in one of these letters written in 1842 such a statement as this, "Nothing new here, except my marrying, which to me is matter of profound wonder"; and one gets a new if slight look at Mrs. Lincoln in reading, in a letter to John Marshall, who had sent him a book of fiction, "I am not much of a reader of this sort of literature, but my wife got hold of the volume I took home, read it half through last night, and is greatly interested in it." Marshall had sent him fifty copies of his book, with a request that he see what he could do about placing them in the Springfield bookstore. Mr. Lincoln's immediate attention to his friend's request, his full report, and his closing assurance that his effort had been "rather a pleasure than a trouble," are quite in line with other evidences in the letters of his pleasure in serving people. He held an opportunity to do a favor as a privilege. He was continually considering how this or that would affect the feelings of others. This was true even in politics. There is an illustration of this in a letter referring to Judge Logan's candidacy for the Supreme Bench. He wanted to be sure Logan could succeed before they went too far ahead, "because it would hurt his feelings to be beaten more than it would almost any one else."

The value that he set on friendship was very high. This comes out again and again in these let-

ters and particularly well in the fresh contribution here made to the history of the contest for the nomination to Congress in 1845. Lincoln believed that because of a compact made with his rivals the nomination belonged to him. His friend Hardin was disposed to take it if he could get it. Lincoln was ready to fight for his own, but not to a point where friendship would be broken. He cautions his friends that "it will be just all we can do to keep out of a quarrel"; nevertheless, "let nothing be said against Hardin," he wrote; "nothing deserves to be said against him. Let the pith of the whole argument be 'Turn about is fair play.'"

There are a surprising number of letters of the very first class, both in matter and manner. The letters in the Trumbull series are in this class. One letter of 1861 marked "very confidential" gives his full mind about the coming Cabinet appointments. A letter of 1857 to his friend Lemen compares the work of Elijah P. Lovejoy and Lemen's father and contains this comment, "Lovejoy's tragic death for freedom in every sense marked his sad ending as the most important single event that ever happened in the new world." There is a letter explaining the "house divided against itself" speech; a letter to Alexander Stephens, of which Lincoln says at the end: "This is the longest letter I ever dictated or wrote. But this is to only you alone, not to the public." Another letter of value

is that to General Steele, Governor Phelps, *et. al.*, where, under date of November 18, 1862, he formulates a plan for reconstruction, and presents it in a most conciliatory spirit. All of these may be counted as *great* contributions, important and interesting.

As a matter of fact, if we had no other collection of Lincoln's letters than these which Mr. Tracy has brought together and is giving to the world, we should know Lincoln as a clear, sound thinker, a wonderful master of direct original expression, as a man of kindest feeling, a man of clever wit, of shrewd action, and in all things and perhaps above all things a believer in fair play. Mr. Tracy has crowned his lifelong devotion to Abraham Lincoln with a noble gift to the people of the country.

IDA M. TARBELL

UNCOLLECTED LETTERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

To Ira I. Fenn

Springfield, Oct. 6, 1836

Dr Sir: By direction of Judge Lockwood, I send you this with its contents.

Yours &c

A Lincoln

Ira I. Fenn Esq

[*On reverse side of sheet*]

Free A. Lincoln P.M.
New Salem Ill.

Ira I. Fenn Esqr

Columbia

Putnam Co

Ills.

To Levi Davis

Springfield April 19, 1837.

Levi Davis, Esq.,

Friend Davis—The bearer of this, Dr. A. G. Henry,[1] visits you for the purpose of drawing a small amount of money to enable the Commissioners to commence the erection of a State House. He, as you probably recollect, is one of the Building Commissioners. The Bond for the $50,000. required by the *act locating the Seat of Government*, has been executed by several of our Citizens and duly approved by the Governor, and will be filed with the Treasurer by Dr. Henry on his Arrival at your Town. The Dr. being a Stranger to you and the Treasurer, and his duties being of a new kind, he has asked me to request you as friends to render him what assistance you conveniently can. We have, generally in this Country, Peace, Health, and Plenty, and no News. Very respectfully,

A. Lincoln.

To Levi Davis

Springfield, March 15, 1838.

Levi Davis, Esq.,

Vandalia, Ill.

Dear Sir: We received yours of the 2nd inst., by due course of mail and have only to offer in excuse for not answering it sooner, that we have been in

[1] An intimate friend of Lincoln at Springfield.

a great state of confusion here ever since the receipt of your letter: and also, that your clients cannot suffer by the delay. The suit is merely instituted to quiet a title which has passed through Dr. Stapp, but to which he now lays no claim as we understand — he is a mere nominal party to the proceeding — more than all this, we believe nothing will or can be done with the case at this court. We beg your pardon for our neglect in this business, if it had been important to you or your client we would have done better. Yours truly,

STUART AND LINCOLN.

To —— DRESSER [1]

SPRINGFIELD May 30, 1839.

MR. DRESSER:

Enclosed are the papers to commence a suit for old man Summers against H. Sears. You will find one of Butler's blank summons filled up by me which you can copy and it will be right in this case. It would do itself but for its having the Sangamon seal to it. Also on the other side of this sheet you will find a petition for an order to have the land involved in this matter conveyed to Sears. It, together with the bond (also enclosed) you will file and docket among your chancery cases. No process to issue in it. Yours

A. LINCOLN.

[1] Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

To Mrs. Orville H. Browning [1]

[Probable date: Oct. 10 or 11, 1839.]

To the Honorable Mrs. Browning:

We the undersigned, respectfully represent to your *Honoress*, that we are in great need of your society in the town of Springfield and therefore humbly pray that your Honoress will repair forthwith to the seat of Government bringing in your train all ladies in general who may be at your command and all Mrs. Browning's sisters in particular [the above was written by A. L.] and as faithful and dutiful petitioners we promise that if you grant this our request, we will render unto your Honoress due attention and faithful obedience to your orders in general and to Miss Brownings in particular.

In tender consideration whereof we pray your Honoress to grant your humble petitioners their above request and such other and further relief in the premises as to your Honoress may seem right and proper; and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, etc.

(Signed) A Lincoln
O. B. Webb
J. J. Hardin [2]
John Dawson [3]

[1] Mr. Browning, afterwards United States Senator, and Secretary of the Interior under Johnson, was at this time a member of the Illinois State Senate.

[2] John J. Hardin, Member of Congress from Illinois, 1843–45; killed at the head of his regiment at Buena Vista, Feb. 27, 1847.

[3] One of Lincoln's colleagues in the Legislature.

To ———[1]

SPRINGFIELD, ILLS., Sept. 26th, 1840.

Dear Sir: I duly recd. your letter with the enclosures dated the 6th inst. which I have had on hand ever since, waiting the return of C. Walker & have not seen him till this moment. You state that some years since M. D. Browning of Quincy, purchased a floating Claim & entered therewith certain lands and took an assignment of the *Certificate*, from me to Jefferson Taliaferro my interest therein & that an action of ejectment has commenced. Now, I have no recollection of the transaction, and if I did it I have forgotten it, nor do I presume it was done by me in person, but it may have been done by some person that claimed to be my friend in the matter, in that floating claim although in my name I have no interest. If you desire it and can make me safe I have no objection to make such arrangements as we can agree upon. As I am unacquainted with the transaction I am unwilling to make any conveyance until I see the assignment & original certificate. If Mr. Underhill will bring that *Certificate* I will do all an honorable man should do. It is not money but safety I desire. I am too much pressed [?] professionally to go over but if Mr. Underhill will come on & bring the assigned *Certificate*, I will do all in safety I can or ought.

Yours very sincerely A. LINCOLN.

[1] In the Frank Logan Collection.

To John T. Stuart [1]

Springfield, Feb. 5, 1841.

Dear Stuart: Some of us here have concluded that if it is agreeable, Bat Webb shall be our District Attorney. He would accept the place, but will not enter into a scramble for it. We here, or at least I, know of no other applicant. I will add that I really have my heart set upon Webb's appointment to this place, and that I believe the whole party would be gratified with it.

What the Locos will do about the Congressional election, no man can tell. I heard Herndon say on yesterday that he was in favor of taking Jersey, Green, Scott, Morgan, Cass, Menard, Sangamon, Logan and Tazewell from your District and adding them to Reynolds, and leaving all else in statu quo. Something like this I think more probable than the District system, because our opponents are somewhat afraid of the latter themselves.

As ever, your friend,

A. Lincoln

To Colonel W. H. Davidson [2]

Springfield, June 4, 1841.

Dear Colonel: Yours of the 23rd ult. is duly received and I have most cheerfully complied with

[1] Lincoln's first law partner.

[2] Original owned by Mrs. Frank E. Hay, Carmi, Ill.

Fold-out Placeholder

his fold-out is being digitized, and will be inserted at a future date.

Fold-out Placeholder

This fold-out is being digitized, and will be inserted at a future date.

the request you make in relation to Colonel Servaut. I have written to Mr. Tyler saying all for the Colonel that I could say for the best man on earth. Baker[1] will do the same to-day.

About the matter you and I spoke of at our last parting, I can say nothing which would be news to you. My feelings, and those of Baker, on that subject, are precisely the same as when we last saw you; but the question is *how* to effect anything. If you see any way that we can do anything you ought to write us: there is no indelicacy in it.

Baker and I were with Webb at Vermillion and talked the matter over with him and he will tell you the particulars of what we thought.

With my best respects to Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Wilson, I remain,

Your friend, as ever,

A. Lincoln

To Samuel D. Marshall[2]

Springfield, July 14, 1842.

Friend Sam: Yours of the 15th June, relative to the suit of Grable vs. Margrave was duly received,

[1] Doubtless Edward Dickinson Baker, then a member of the Illinois Senate, afterwards United States Senator from Oregon. He fell at Ball's Bluff, where he commanded a brigade.

[2] Of Shawneetown, Ill., son of John Marshall of the same place, who was one of the Territorial Judges of Illinois. Original owned by Misses Genevieve and Elizabeth Marshall, of Shawneetown.

and I have delayed answering it till now, when I can announce the result of the case. The judgment is affirmed. So soon as the clerk has leisure to make out a copy of the mandate of the court, I will get him to do so, and send it to you, by force of which, your clerk will issue an execution.

As to the fee, if you are agreed, let it be as follows. Give me credit for two years subscription to your paper and send me five dollars, in good money or the equivalent of it in our Illinois paper.

There is nothing new here. Bennett's Mormon disclosures are making some little stir here, but not very great.

Ever your friend

A. Lincoln.

To Samuel D. Marshall [1]

Springfield, Nov. 11th, 1842.

Dear Sam: Yours of the 10th Oct. enclosing five dollars was taken from the office in my absence by Judge Logan [2] who neglected to hand it to me till about a week ago, and just an hour before I took a wife. Your other of the 3rd Inst., is also received. The Forbes & Hill case, of which you speak has not been brought up as yet.

[1] Original owned by Misses Genevieve and Elizabeth Marshall.

[2] Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's law partner, 1841–43; formerly a Judge of the United States Circuit Court.

I have looked into the Dorman & Lane case, till I believe I understand the facts of it; and I also believe we can reverse it. In the last I may be mistaken, but I think the case at least worth the experiment, and if Dorman will risk the cost, I will do my best for the "biggest kind of a fee" as you say, if we succeed, and nothing if we fail. I have not had a chance to consult Logan since I read your letters, but if the case comes up, I can have the use of him if I need him.

I would advise you to procure the Record and send it up immediately. Attend to the making out of the Record yourself, or most likely, the clerk will not get it all together right.

Nothing new here, except my marrying, which to me, is matter of profound wonder.

Yours forever

A. Lincoln.

Samuel D. Marshall, Esq.
Shawneetown,
Illinois.

To Richard S. Thomas [1]

Springfield, Ills., Feb. 14, 1843.

Friend Richard: . . . Now if you should hear any one say that Lincoln don't want to go to Congress, I wish you as a personal friend of mine,

[1] A lawyer of Virginia, Ill.; an old-line Whig until the organization of the Republican Party.

would tell him you have reason to believe he is mistaken. The truth is, I would like to go very much. Still, circumstances may happen which may prevent my being a candidate.

If there are any who be my friends in such an enterprise, what I now want is that they shall not throw me away just yet.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Richard S. Thomas

Springfield, March 2, 1843.

Friend Richard: I received yours of the 27th ult., in due course, for which I thank you. The fact mentioned by you that an impression was being made that I did not wish to be a candidate was precisely the reason of my writing you before.

The Bill forming the Districts is now a law, and our District is composed of Putnam, Marshall, Woodford, Tazewell, Logan, Mason, Menard, Cass, Scott, Morgan and Sangamon.

Last night the Whigs of the state, now here, held a meeting and recommended that a convention be held in each District on or before the first Monday of May, to nominate candidates for congress. By this recommendation your county will have two delegates in our convention. Why might you not be one of those Delegates?

You will see the full length proceedings of the meeting in the *Journal.* The meeting was large, and every resolution passed unanimously; and I do hope the principles and recommendations put forth by them may be responded to with the same unanimity by our friends everywhere.

If they shall be so responded to, we shall yet, and at no very distant day, be of the majority in the State.

Write me again, if it is not too troublesome.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Henry E. Dummer [1]

Springfield, Jan. 2, 1844

Friend Dummer: In reply to yours of the 14th ult. I say that if you can get a clean title to the 40 acres of land, together with costs, and a reasonable fee to yourself, I reckon you had better do it.

Have the deed made to me.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Richard S. Thomas

Springfield, February 14, 1844.

Friend Richard: I am sorry to have to say I can find but one copy of the President's Message in

[1] A lawyer of Beardstown, Ill.

town, and that one belongs to the State Library, and of course cannot be had.

If alive and well I am sure to be with you on the 22nd. I will meet the trio of mighty adversaries you mention, in the best manner I can.

No news here.

Yours forever.

A. Lincoln

To ———

Springfield, April 24, 1844.

. . . . . .

As to the real estate, we can not attend to it as agents, and we therefore recommend that you give the charge of it, to Mr. Isaac S. Button, a trustworthy man, and one whom the Lord made on purpose for such business.

Yours &c

Logan & Lincoln

To Samuel D. Marshall [1]

Springfield, Decr. 6th, 1844.

Dear Sam: In your last letter, you incline to complain, that in mine, I did not notice what you had said about the case of Stickney vs. Cassell, nor the

[1] Original owned by Misses Genevieve and Elizabeth Marshall, Shawneetown, Ill.

cases against the Shawneetown Bank. The truth is, when I received your letter, I glanced it over, stuck it away, postponed the consideration of the cases, above mentioned, and forgot them altogether. I now give you some account of all your cases, in detail. Dorman vs. Lane, stands as it did & I will do the best I can with it according to your instructions. Gatewood vs. Wood & Wood we would have failed entirely to get into court but for an agreement with Mr. Eddy, which saved us. By the agreement we altered the record so as to make it appear that it had been sent to the circuit court, also agreeing that at the next term of the Gallatin Circuit Court, all the papers & orders are to be altered there accordingly *nunc pro tunc*.

Stickney vs. Cassell, I have just examined, & I think I can get the judgement affirmed. I 'll try. The cases against the Bank, neither Logan nor I can engage in with you; we being to some extent standing counsel for Dunlap, & also specially retained by him in these cases. Mr. Eddy has retained me in a case for your father, for the Supreme Court, which, however, I have not yet examined.

Give my respects to your Father and believe me as ever

Yours sincere friend

A. Lincoln.

To Samuel D. Marshall

Springfield, June 20, 1845.

Dear Sam: I have wondered very much why you never wrote me concerning the Dorman & Lane case since I wrote you, as to the decision of it in the supreme court. I learn this morning at the clerk's office, that Lane has not, as yet, taken out the order remanding it; and I think it possible, he may have abandoned it. You, perhaps, know his intention. The case of Gatewood vs. Wood & Wood — has that been settled? or how stands it?

At the request of Mr. Eddy, I attended a case in the Supreme Court of Rawlings against Field, your father, Mr. Eddy & some others, and got the judgment reversed. This was no business of yours, and I now only ask, as a favor of you, that if Mr. Eddy is well, you say to him I would like to have the little fee in the case, if convenient.

Please write me on the receipt of this.

Yours forever

A. Lincoln.

Mr. Samuel Marshall

To Henry E. Dummer [1]

Springfield, Nov. 18th, 1845.

Friend Dummer: Before Baker left, he said to me, in accordance with what had long been an

[1] By courtesy of William F. Dummer, Chicago Historical Society.

understanding between him and me, that the track for the next congressional race was clear to me so far as he was concerned; and that he would say so publicly in any manner and at any time I might desire. I said in reply, as to the manner and time I would consider a while and write him.

I understand friend Delahay [1] to have already informed you of the substance of the above.

I now wish to say to you that if it be consistent with your feelings, you would set a few stakes for me. I do not certainly know, but I strongly suspect that General Hardin wishes to run again. I know of no argument to give me a preference over him, unless it be "Turn about is fair play."

The Pekin paper has lately nominated or suggested Hardin's name for Governor, and the Alton paper, noticing that, indirectly nominates him for Congress. I wish you would, if you can, see that, while these things are handed about among the papers, the Beardstown paper takes no stand that may injure my chance unless the conductor really prefers Genl. Hardin, in which case I suppose it would be fair.

Let this be confidential and please write me in a few days.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

[1] Probably Mark W. Delahay, a Whig politician, later of Kansas. See letters on pp. 99, 103, 116, 117, 134, 141, and 176.

To B. F. James[1]

Springfield, Ills., Dec 6, 1845.

B. F. James Esq.

Dear Sir: To succeed, I must have 17 votes in convention. To secure them, I think I may safely claim Sangamon 8, Menard 2, Logan 1, making 11, so that if you and other friends can secure Dr. Boal's[2] entire senatorial district, that is, Tazewell 4, Woodford 1, and Marshall 1, it just covers the case. . . .

Upon the whole, it is my intention to give him the trial, unless clouds should rise, which are not yet discernible. This determination you need not, however, as yet, announce in your paper, at least not as coming from me. . . .

In doing this, let nothing be said against Hardin . . . nothing deserves to be said against him. Let the pith of the whole argument be "Turn about is fair play."

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

P.S. . . .

A. L.

[1] See five other letters to James written during this campaign, in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, 1, 82–85, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, 1, 278, 282, 285, 286.

[2] Robert Boal. See letter of Jan. 7, 1846, to him in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, Tandy's ed., 1905, 1, 280.

To Samuel D. Marshall

Springfield, Decr 30, 1845.

Friend Sam: I learned today that Lane, to avoid paying the cost of taking the case between Dorman and him back from the Supreme Court, has commenced a new proceeding in your Circuit Court. Write me, if this is so; and I, together with Judge Logan, will try to frame a plea either in bar or in abatement, out of the fact of the pendency of the old case, that shall blow them up with their new case.

By the way, if they fail for more than [a] year (which they have nearly done already) to take the old case down from here, I think we can plead limitation on them, so that it will stick for good and all. Don't speak of this, lest they hear it, and take the alarm.

Write me on receipt of this.

Yours as ever,

A Lincoln.

To —— McNamar [1]

[1845]

Friend McNamar: You see the object of the above letter as it speaks of the tax of 1842. I had

[1] John McNamar, or John McNeill, as he called himself in New Salem, was the man who had been engaged to Anne Rut-

supposed the land was already sold, but so far as the Returns in the Auditor's Office shows, it has not. It may be that James meant the year 1843. I wish you would examine, and if the taxes have been paid up to this year, apply the inclosed money, or enough of it, to the payment of the tax of this year and send me the receipt by mail.

Write the condition in which it stands at any rate.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To B. F. James[1]

Springfield, Feb. 9, 1846

Dear James: You have seen, or will see what I am inclined to think you will regard as rather an extraordinary communication in the Morgan Journal. The "excessive modesty" of its tone is certainly admirable. As an excuse for getting before the public, the writer sets out with a pretence of answering an article which I believe appeared in

ledge before Lincoln's engagement with her and whose apparent faithlessness brought about her fatal illness. This letter may refer to property abandoned by him when he left New Salem in 1834. According to Mr. Henry C. Whitney, Lincoln procured James McNamar (apparently brother of John) to correct the English of his first political address, in 1832.

[1] At Tremont, Ill. From *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, xlii, 83. (Jan., 1909.) The original is in the Washburn collection in the manuscripts of the Society.

the Lacon paper some time since taking the ground that the Pekin convention had settled the rotation principle. Now whether the Pekin convention did or did not settle that principle, I care not. If I am not, in what I *have done*, and am *able to do*, for the party, near enough the equal of Gen[l] Hardin, to entitle me to the nomination, now that he has one, I scorn it on *any* and *all* other grounds.

So far, then, as this Morgan Journal communication may relate to the Pekin convention, I prefer that your paper shall let it "stink and die" unnoticed.

There is, however, as you will see, another thing in the communication which is an attempt to injure me because of my declining to recommend the adoption of a *new plan*, for the selecting a candidate. The attempt is to make it appear that I am unwilling to have a *fair* expression of the whigs of the District upon our respective claims. Now nothing can be more false in fact; and if Gen'l Hardin had chosen to furnish his friend with my *written reason* for declining that part of his plan; and that friend had chosen to publish that *reason*, instead of his own construction of the act, the falsehood of his insinuation would have been most apparent. That written reason was as follows, to wit:

"As to your proposals that a poll shall be opened in *every* precinct, and that the whole shall take place on the *same* day, I do not personally

object. They seem to me to not be unfair; and I forbear to join in proposing them, only because I rather choose to leave the decision in each county, to the whigs of the county, to be made as their own judgment and convenience may dictate."

I send you this as a weapon with which to demolish, what I cannot but regard as a mean insinuation against me. You may use it as you please; I prefer however that you should show it to some of our friends, and not publish it, unless in your judgement it becomes rather urgently necessary. The reason I want to keep all points of controversy out of the papers, so far as possible, is, that it will be *just all we can do* to keep out of a quarrel—and I am resolved to do my part to keep peace.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

To Samuel D. Marshall

Springfield, March 3, 1846.

Dear Sam: I herewith send you the draft of a plea for our case. By consultation with Judge Logan, I draw it in the form I do, to compel Lane, in order to get round it, to reply that the case has been brought to, and reversed & remanded by the Supreme Court, upon his doing which, you join issue with him, and that will compel him to pay the cost in the Supreme Court in order to get the

Record to prove his replication with. If I were to set out the whole facts in a plea in abatement, we should have to pay the Supreme Court cost, in order to get the record to prove the plea with. This we wish to avoid. This that I send, is a plea in bar. You will, of course, put in all, and all manner, of other pleas in bar, particularly as to lapse of time.

Yours, as ever — A LINCOLN.

Dorman & Wife
vs
Lane, Adm^{r} &c } Petition to sell real estate —

And the said defendants come and defend, when, where &c. and say, that the said Petitioner to have and maintain his petition, or to have the prayer thereof granted by said court, ought not, because they say, that heretofore to wit, on the day of A.D. the said petitioner filed his petition in this court, against these defendants, praying an order for the sale of the identical same land, for the purpose of paying the identical same debt, as in the petition herein; and that such proceedings were had on that petition, that at the term of said court, the final order was made by said court, directing the sale of said land, for the object in that petition stated; and this the said defendants are ready to verify; wherefore they pray judgment &c.

MARSHALL p.d.

To Orville H. Browning

Springfield, June 24th, 1847.

Dear Browning:—Yours of the 19th inst. is received, and I have filed a plea for you in the case of Moore vs. Latourette.

Don't fret yourself about the trouble you give me; when I get tired I'll tell you.

I am glad you sent this letter, because it reminds me to write the result of your two cases of Moore vs. Brown & God knows who all, the charge of which you sent to Logan, and into which he drew me with him.

We tried one of them, in which, after the plaintiff proved title, we offered the Auditor's deed, as the first link of connected title and seven years possession, which was objected to, and the judges divided in opinion, which division is certified for the Supreme Court. The other case stands over to abide &c.

Indeed, indeed, I do not know what they are doing in the Convention. It is considered as almost settled that they will not prohibit Banks, that they will establish a poll tax, will restrict the number of members of both Houses of the Legislature to 100; will limit their per diem to $2.00 or $2.50 and make it still less after the first forty days of the session. So far as I have mentioned, I am pleased. Some other things I have fears for. I am not easy about

the Courts. I am satisfied with them as they are, but shall not care much if the judges are made elective by the People, and their term of office limited. I fear, however, something more, and, as I think, much worse than all this, to wit "A Puppy Court," that is a Judge in each county, with civil jurisdiction in all cases up to a thousand dollars, and criminal in all cases not capital. "A Migratory Supreme Court" and salaries so low as to exclude all respectable talent. From these — may God preserve us.

As to what I, Baker, and everybody else are doing, I am preparing to go to the Chicago River & Harbor Convention. Baker has gone to Alton, and is thought to be Colonel of the South Regiment, and everybody is doing pretty much what everybody is always doing.

I hope this may find you well, and Mrs. Browning recovered from her hurt. I don't believe Mary and I can visit Quincy, although it would be very pleasant to do so.

My Chicago trip and "several other gentlemen" (Bob & Ed) are very much in the way of it. Our love to Mrs. Browning and yourself.

A. Lincoln.

To Converse & Priest

October 1st. 1847.

Messrs. Converse & Priest: If you will let Mr. E. G. Johns have any amount of oil not exceeding ten dollars in value, I will pay you the money for it in three months from date.

A. Lincoln

To Morris & Brown

Springfield, Oct. 19, 1847.

Friends Morris and Brown. Your letter of the 15th was received this morning. The Governor is not here, and will not be, it is thought, for about ten days. Unfortunately for my attending to the business you sent, I start for Washington by way of Kentucky, on next Monday.

I will try, however, to have the only objection that can be made presented to the Governor. I suppose it is the true construction of the act of Congress for the Governor, on whom the requisition is made, to look to the sufficiency of the affidavit; otherwise the provision of the act, that a copy of the enactment or affidavit shall accompany the requisition is mere foolishness. What view, however, our Governor will take no man can tell.

If he shall make the order surrendering the de-

fendants, you will have then to do the best you can by a Habeas Corpus.

Yours in haste,

A. Lincoln.

To Morris & Brown

Springfield, October 21, 1847.

Messrs. Morris and Brown.

Gentlemen:—Your second letter on the matter of Thornton and others, came to hand this morning. I went at once to see Logan, and found that he is not engaged against you, and that he has so sent you word by Mr. Butterfield, as he says. He says that some time ago, a young man (whom he knows not) came to him, with a copy of the affidavit, to engage him to aid in getting the Governor to grant the warrant; and that he, Logan, told the man that, in his opinion, the affidavit was clearly insufficient, upon which the young man left, without making any engagement with him. If the Governor shall arrive before I leave, Logan and I will both attend to the matter, and *he* will attend to it if he does not come till after I leave; all upon the condition that the Governor shall not have acted upon the matter before his arrival here. I mention this condition, because I learned this morning from the Secretary of State that he is forwarding to the Governor, at Palestine, all papers he receives in the case,

as fast as he receives them. Among the papers forwarded will be your letter to the Governor or Secretary of, I believe, the same date and about the same contents of your last letter to me; so that the Governor will, at all events have your points and authorities. The case is a clear one on our side; but whether the Governor will view it so is another thing.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Richard S. Thomas

Washington, January 1, 1848.

Dear Richard: Your letter of the 23rd Dec. is received, as also the petition you mentioned.

When documents become plenty, which they have not yet, I will send them to you. There is a good deal of diversity among the whigs, as to who shall be their candidate for the Presidency, but I think it will result in favor of General Taylor.

As to Mr. Graham's[1] application for a Lieutenancy, I have already submitted it to the President in the best way I could think of to give it chance of success. I wrote him about it; and do not know anything more that I can do for him. You know I

[1] Perhaps Menton Graham, schoolmaster at New Salem, and an early and helpful friend of Lincoln.

can have no intimacy with the President, which might give me personal influence over him.

In great haste, yours as ever

A. Lincoln.

To Samuel D. Marshall [1]

Washington, Jan. 22, 1848.

Dear Sam: Your letter of the 15th is received. Your letter to me concerning our Dorman Case was also received, while I was very busy preparing to start on here. I handed the letter to Judge Logan and extorted a special promise from him to examine the case & write you. Although I know the Judge to be growing somewhat negligent, I did not doubt that, from the peculiarity of this case, and his very assuring promise, he would attend to it. I *know* he intended to do it; but I suppose he has forgotten it. I know nothing that I can here do in the matter.

As to the matter of your lost horse, I will look into it, & do something if I can.

Yours truly A. Lincoln.

To Andrew McCallen [2]

Washington, Feb. 4, 1848.

Friend McCallen: Yours of the 20th January is received. There is now some probability of peace,

[1] Original owned by Misses Genevieve and Elizabeth Marshall, Shawneetown, Ill. [2] A lawyer in Shawneetown, Ill.

but should the war go on, I think volunteers with the right of electing their own officers will be voted, but that no more regulars will be voted. Until congress shall act, of course nothing can be done toward getting your Regiment into the service. Whenever it shall act I shall be happy to assist you in any way I can.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln.

P.S. Don't pay postage on letters to me. I am entitled to them free.

A. L.

To Richard S. Thomas

Washington, March 1, 1848.

Friend Richard: Your letter of the 12th Feb. together with the petition for a mail route was received last night. Strange it was on the road so long. I shall present the petition, and give it my best attention.

Your second letter was received, and I thought I had answered it. I am not a candidate for renomination or election.

Excuse the shortness of this letter; I am really very much hurried.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln.

R. S. Thomas,
Virginia, Ills.

To Richard S. Thomas

Washington, March 30, 1848

Dear Richard: Having a few leisure moments, I employ them to say a word about your petition concerning school lands. The petition was referred to the Land Committee of which I am not a member; so that while in Committee, I can have no direct agency in the matter. McClernand of our state is on that committee; and he told me yesterday, or the day before, that the Committee had unanimously determined to do nothing in the matter, so far as concerns the townships which have entire sixteenth sections, but which are of little or no value; because to enter upon this, would be to break up the entire present system of school lands throughout the United States, which would be immensely inconvenient, and which, after all, could never result in anything much nearer equality than the present system. He says the Committee are for the petition so far as concerns fractional townships, which have no sixteenth section, or only fractional ones, containing less than a thirty-sixth of the land of the township. He says they think there is already an old law concerning the case; and that they are investigating it, and if necessary to effect the object, they will report a bill accordingly. Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Rev. Henry Slicer

Washington, June 1, 1848.

Rev. Hy. Slicer.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th ulto. was received last night. I very cheerfully comply with your request, so far as I am able.

As I remember, the House ordered the raising of two committees, one of Arrangements, number indefinite, the other, thirty in number, to attend the remains of Mr. Adams to Massachusetts. By some mistake, as I understood, a committee of thirty was appointed by the Speaker, as a committee of Arrangements, of which I was a member. At our first meeting, the mistake was discovered, and the committee being much too numerous for convenience, we delegated our authority to a sub-committee, of a smaller number of our own body, of which sub-committee, I was *not* a member. Whatever was done in the matter about which you enquire, I presume was done by the sub-committee; at all events, I have no knowledge of it whatever. Mr. Hudson was chairman of both the general, and the sub-committee, and who were the other members of the latter I do not certainly recollect.

To your first special interrogatory, to wit: "Were you consulted in regard to my exclusion from the services?" I answer, I was not — perhaps because

the arrangement I have stated excluded me from consultations on all points.

To the second, to wit: "Was *objection* made *to me*, and if so, on what ground was it placed?" I answer I know nothing whatever on the point. To the third, to wit: "Did my exclusion meet with your *consent* or *approval?*" I answer, I know nothing of the matter, and, of course, did not consent to, or approve of, it; and I may add, that I know nothing which should have justified me in any attempt to put a mark of disapprobation upon you.

So entirely ignorant was I, in relation to your having been excluded from the funeral services of Mr. Adams, that, until I received your letter, I should have given it as my recollection, that you did actually participate in those services.

Yours respectfully,

A. Lincoln.

To Richard S. Thomas

Washington, June 13, 1848.

Friend Richard: In my anxiety for the result, I was led to attend the Philadelphia convention; and on my return, I found your letter of the 1st. I have entered the names you sent me on my book, and commenced sending documents to them.

In relation to the school land questions, the land committee of both Houses are of opinion the law

is already ample in relation to fractional townships. To make sure of the matter, I shall go to the General Land Office to-morrow morning, enquire into the whole matter, and write you again. As to the report you saw in the Baltimore paper, on inquiry I think it must have been a report of the Senate. No such bill has passed the House; but Breese [1] says he reported such a bill to the Senate, which he supposes has passed that body. I think I wrote you once before, that I thought no such bill could become a law, and gave my reasons for the opinion. Lest I am mistaken in my recollection, I now give you those reasons briefly. The justice of such a law rests upon the principle that every township should have a section of *equal value* with every other township, in proportion to its capacity for population. Now, to adopt this principle, and practically apply it, would entirely break up the present system, in relation to school sections, and require an amount of agencies and labor, more than equal in expense to the whole expense of the present land system. Seeing this, members of congress are disinclined to do a very *little*, and leave undone very *much* of a matter all standing on the same principle.

It is now obvious, that in the beginning of our land system, one thirty-sixth of the proceeds of the land should have been given for school purposes,

[1] Sidney Breese, Senator from Illinois, 1843–49.

instead of giving the land itself; and then the states could have distributed the fund or the interest of it equally.

Wisconsin, on coming into the Union has managed to adopt this plan substantially. Should the bill from the Senate come up in the House, of course I shall not use the above argument, or any other argument against it; but on the contrary, shall do what I can to have it passed. Still, I doubt its ultimate success.

Yours forever A. Lincoln.

To Richard S. Thomas

Washington, June 19, 1848.

Friend Thomas: Do you know any democrats who will vote for Taylor? and if so, what are their names? Do you know any Whigs who will not vote for him? and if so, what are their names? and for whom will they vote?

Please answer this just as soon as it is received.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To —— Hogan [1]

Washington, July 14, 1848.

Friend Hogan: Soon after I received yours, I went personally to the General Land Office, for

[1] Copy furnished by the courtesy of Mr. Judd Stewart.

the information you desired. Judge Young[1] took a memorandum, and promised to do what he could. Last night he sent me what accompanies this, which I suppose is all the information can be had.

Taylorism seems to be going right for which I am very glad. Keep the ball rolling.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To William Schouler[2]

Washington, August 8, 1848.

Friend Schooler [*sic*], — I am remaining here for two weeks to frank documents. Now that the Presidential Candidates are all set, I will thank you for your undisguised opinion as to what New England generally and Massachusetts particularly will do. Your opinion as to the nomination of Taylor held so good that I have confidence in your predictions.

Very truly Yours

A. Lincoln

[1] Richard M. Young, Commissioner of the General Land Office, 1847–50.

[2] Editor and publisher of the *Boston Daily Atlas*. Original owned by Mr. James Schouler. Printed in *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, xlii, 80 (Jan., 1909).

To William Schouler [1]

Washington, August 28, 1848

Friend Schooler [*sic*],—Your letter of the 21st was received two or three days ago, and for which please accept my thanks, both for your courtesy and the encouraging news in it. The news we are receiving here now from all parts is on the look-up. We have had several letters from Ohio to-day, all encouraging. Two of them inform us that Hon. C. B. Smith,[2] on his way here, addressed a larger and more enthusiastic audience, at Cincinnati, than has been seen in that city since 1840. Smith himself wrote one of the letters; and he says the signs are decidedly good. Letters from the Reserve are of the same character. The tone of the letters — free from despondency — full of hope — is what particularly encourages me. If a man is scared when he writes, I think I can detect it, when I see what he writes.

I would rather not be put upon explaining how Logan was defeated in my district. In the first place I have no particulars from there, my friends, supposing I am on the road home, not having written me. Whether there was a full turn out of the

[1] Original owned by Mr. James Schouler. Printed in *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, XLII, 80 (Jan., 1909).

[2] Caleb Blood Smith, Whig Representative from Indiana, 1843–49, and later Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior.

voters I have as yet not learned. The most I can now say is that a good many Whigs, without good cause, as I think, were unwilling to go for Logan, and some of them so wrote me before the election. On the other hand Harris[1] was a Major of the war, and fought at Cerro Gordo, where several Whigs of the district fought with him. These two facts and their effects, I presume tell the whole story. That there is any political change against us in the district I cannot believe; because I wrote some time ago to every county of the district for an account of changes; and in answer I got the names of four against us, eighty-three for us. I dislike to predict, but it seems to me the district must and will be found right side up again in November.

Yours Truly

A Lincoln.

To Walter Davis

Washington, Jan. 5, 1849.

Friend Walter: Your letter is received. When I last saw you, I said, that if the distribution of the offices should fall into my hands, you should have something, and I now say as much, but can say no more. I know no more now than I

[1] Thomas L. Harris, Democratic Representative from Illinois, 1849–51, 1855–58.

knew when you saw me, as to whether the present officers will be removed, or if they shall, whether *I* shall be allowed to name the persons to fill them.

It will perhaps be better for both you and me, for you to say nothing about this.

I shall do what I can about the Land claim on your brother Thomas' account.[1]

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To C. R. Welles

Washington, Feb. 20, 1849.

C. R. Welles, Esq.

Dear Sir: This is Tuesday evening, and your letter enclosing the one of Young & Brothers to you, saying the money sent by me to them had not been received, came to hand last Saturday night. The facts, which are perfectly fresh in my recollection, are these: You gave me the money in a letter (open I believe) directed to Young & Brothers. To make it more secure than it would be in my hat, where I carry most all my packages, I put it in my trunk. I had a great many jobs to do in St. Louis; and by the very extra care I had taken of yours, overlooked

[1] See letters in reference to Davis's appointment as Receiver of the Land Office at Springfield, Ill., in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, I, 152, 155, 157, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, II, 112, 115, 122.

it. On the Steam Boat near the mouth of the Ohio, I opened the trunk, and discovered the letter. I then began to cast about for some safe hand to send it back by. Mr. Yeatman, Judge Pope's son-in-law, and step-son of Mr. Bell of Tennessee, was on board, and was to return immediately to St. Louis, from the Mouth of Cumberland. At my request, he took the letter and promised to deliver it, and I heard no more about it till I received your letter on Saturday. It so happens that Mr. Yeatman is now in this City; I called on him last night about it; he said he remembered my giving him the letter, and he could remember nothing more of it. He told me he would try and refresh his memory, and see me again concerning it today, which, however, he has not done. I will try to see him tomorrow and write you again. He is a young man, as I understand, of unquestioned, and unquestionable character; and this makes me fear some pickpocket on the boat may have seen me give him the letter, and slipped it from him. In this way, never seeing the letter again, he would, naturally enough, never think of it again.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Thomas Ewing, *Secretary of the Interior*

Washington June 22, 1849.

Hon. Secretary of the Interior.

Sir: Please transmit to me the papers on file in your Department, recommending me for Commissioner of General Land office, if not inconsistent with the rules of the Department.

Your obedient Servt.

A. Lincoln.

To John M. Clayton, *Secretary of State*

Springfield, Ill.,
July 28, 1849.

Hon. J. M. Clayton.

Dear Sir: It is with some hesitation I presume to address this letter — and yet I wish not only you, but the whole cabinet, and the President too, would consider the subject matter of it. My being among the People while you and they are not, will excuse the apparent presumption. It is understood that the President at first adopted, as a general rule, to throw the responsibility of the appointments upon the respective Departments; and that such rule is adhered to and practised upon. This course I at first thought proper; and, of course, I am not now complaining of it. Still I am disappointed with the effect of it on the public mind. It is fixing for the President the unjust and ruinous character of being

a mere man of straw. This must be arrested, or it will damn us all inevitably. It is said Gen. Taylor and his officers held a council of war, at Palo Alto (I believe); and that he then fought the battle against unanimous opinion of those officers. This fact (no matter whether rightfully or wrongfully) gives him more popularity than ten thousand submissions, however really wise and magnanimous those submissions may be.

The appointments need be no better than they have been, but the public must be brought to understand, that they are the *President's* appointments. He must occasionally say, or seem to say, "by the Eternal," "I take the responsibility." Those phrases were the "Samson's locks" of Gen. Jackson, and we dare not disregard the lessons of experience.

Your Ob't Sev't

A. Lincoln

To Peter Hitchcock

Cincinnati, Dec 24, 1849.

Peter Hitchcock, Esq.,
Judge &c at Columbus.

Dear Sir: Mr. Fox informed me this morning that I had better write to you in reference to the case of Lewis Logan and Steamboat Chipper now on the docket. We have been ready at any time to

take up the case but have waited for the brief of the other side. We have not yet received it, but it is promised us to-day.

Judge Coffin left here yesterday saying that he would have the case put down for Friday. If I get the brief to-day or to-morrow I presume we can be ready to hear it then and will be at Columbus for that purpose.

We are very anxious to have it heard on account of our clients in this case and because the same question presented in the record is now before the Courts of this county, in several cases. Some cause, I am not fully aware what, has prevented the counsel from furnishing the brief &c. I hope the case will not be continued.

Yours respectfully, A. Lincoln.

To S. Emmons

Springfield, Feb. 9, 1850.

S. Emmons, Esq.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 2nd was not received till yesterday. I shall be entirely satisfied for you to receive the appointment you desire; still I know by conversation with the Marshal that he will look to the wishes of the people of your county, rather than to mine, as to who shall have the appointment.

Therefore as your friend, I advise you to get the recommendation of some of your prominent

whigs — Dummer, Dick Thomas, Arenz and such men, and I will most cheerfully present them to the Marshal when he shall be here.

Very truly your friend

A. Lincoln

To Richard S. Thomas

Springfield, June 27, 1850.

Dear Thomas: I am ashamed of not sooner answering your letter, herewith returned; and my only apologies are, first, that I have been very busy in the U.S. court; and second, that when I received the letter I put it in my old hat, and buying a new one the next day, the old one was set aside, and so the letter lost sight of for a time.

Either of the forms you gave (the latter rather preferable) would do, I think, if it were proper to frame a suit on the bond, in which sureties as well as principal are to be held, on the 27th section. But after a good deal of reflection, I think suits under the 27th section are to be brought only against the *offender himself* for penalties incurred, *and* not against him and his sureties on his bond. If you sue on the bond, you can go for nothing but what is covered by the *condition* of the bond; and what is so covered? "that the applicant will keep an orderly house, and that he will not permit any unlawful gaming or riotous conduct in his

house." Now look quite through the chapter and find what penalty is given for "disorderly house," "unlawful gaming" or "riotous conduct," or for all three together. The first eight sections say nothing about grocery keepers; the ninth provides for granting the license and taking the bond; the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth give no penalty or penalties; the fifteenth cannot apply to this case, because it relates to selling without license; the sixteenth gives a penalty, but not for any of the causes covered by the bond; the seventeenth has nothing to the purposes; the eighteenth goes to the causes covered by the bond, but no pecuniary penalty is given by it; the 19th, 20th and 21st do not touch the causes covered by the bond, and with those sections the chapter ends as to grocery keepers. Now I think you are to bring just such a suit on the bond taken under the ninth section, as you would bring, if the 27th section had no existence.

Bring the suit in the name of whoever, on the face of the bond, is made the obligee, and for the use of whoever is entitled to the money when collected; that is, if the bond is given to the people of the state of Illinois, your first leading, which I mark (A), is right; if the bond is given to an individual, let his name stand in place of that of the People.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Thomas Corwin [1]

Springfield, Ill., Sept 1 [1850?]

Hon Thomas Corwin: This will introduce to your acquaintance my friend Simeon Francis, editor of the *Illinois Journal.* He will desire an interview with the new Secretary of the Interior, with whom I am not acquainted. I shall be greatly obliged if you will procure him a favorable introduction to that gentleman, and show him any other attention which the press of your duties will permit.

Your Ob't Serv't,

A. Lincoln

To D. M. Irwin [2]

D. M. Irwin.

Dear Sir: Above is the Bill as you requested me to send you. Logan only attended the first trial in the Circuit Court. I alone, that is without any partner, attended the case in the Supreme Court. In the Chancery case Mr. Herndon was my partner. I mention all this to explain the three separate bills.

Yours &c

A. Lincoln

[1] Mr. Corwin had resigned as Senator from Ohio, July 22, 1850, to become Secretary of the Treasury under President Taylor.

[2] At bottom of a bill against "The Heirs of Payne" divided into $20, $10, and $10, and covering 1844–50.

To ——— Wilson, *Hotel Proprietor*

Springfield Illinois
January 1851

Mr. Wilson:

Take care of this boy[1] until to-morrow, or longer if the weather is bad, and send the bill to me.

A. Lincoln.

To ——— Wallace

Springfield, Ill.
Jan. 1851.

Mr. Wallace, Peoria:

Dear Sir: This boy wants to reach the Rock River country somewhere near Beloit. If he needs any assistance so you can help him in any way, it will be appreciated, and I will be responsible.

Yours, A. Lincoln

To Andrew McCallen

Springfield, Ill., July 4, 1851

Andrew McCallen,

Dear Sir: I have news from Ottawa that we *win* our Gallatin and Saline county case. As the Dutch justice said when he married folks, "Now vere ish my hundred tollars"?

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

[1] The boy mentioned in this note and the next was Gilbert J. Greene, who set type in the *New York Tribune* office.

To L. M. Hays

Mount Pulaski, Logan Co. Ills
Sept. 8, 1853.

Mr. L. M. Hays,

Dear Sir: Court is in session here now, and on yesterday I got a judgment against G. W. Tenley for $116, 90 cents. The reason the amount was no larger was that the defendant proved by two witnesses — a Wm. Dodd, and a Dr. Mershow — that T. P. Taylor, in his lifetime, told them that Tenley, in 1837, had offered to pay him the money on the note, and that he refused to take it, saying he never intended to collect it, and would give up, or destroy, the note; on which proof the court decided, and I think correctly, that interest could not be allowed between the *offer to pay* and the *bringing of the suit.* This cut off all the interest but the $16.90 as a fee, and will send you the $100 in any way you may direct. I am following the Circuit and shall be at Bloomington, Ills., two weeks, ending on the 24th of this month, from which place I will send you the money, if you will have a letter to reach me there on or before the last named day. I can buy an Eastern draft at Bloomington, or at Springfield after my return there, which I suppose will be the best way of remitting the money.

Yours etc.

A. Lincoln.

To T. R. Webber

Bloomington, Sept 12, 1853.

T. R. Webber, Esq.

My dear Sir: On my arrival here to court, I find that McLean county has assessed the land and other property of the Central Railroad for the purpose of county taxation. An effort is about to be made to get the question of the right to so tax the Co. before the court and ultimately before the supreme court, and the Co. are offering to engage me for them. As this will be the same question I have had under consideration for you, I am somewhat trammelled by what has passed between you and me, feeling that you have the first right to my services, if you choose to secure me a fee something near such as I can get from the other side.

The question in its magnitude to the Co. on the one hand and the counties in which the Co. has land on the other is the largest law question that can now be got up in the State, and therefore in justice to myself, I can not afford, if I can help it, to miss a fee altogether. If you choose to release me, say so by return mail, and there an end. If you wish to retain me, you better get authority from your court, come directly over in the stage and make common cause with this county.

Very truly your friend,

A. Lincoln

To L. M. Hays [1]

Springfield, Illinois,
Nov. 11, 1853.

L. M. Hays, Esq.

Dear Sir: Inclosed is the draft for one hundred dollars. Absence from home prevented my receiving your letter of the 12th October until yesterday.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To Henry E. Dummer

Springfield, Nov. 17, 1853.

Dear Dummer: While I was at Beardstown I forgot to tell you that William Butler says if you will give him charge, and full discretion, of a claim in your hands, against George G. Grubb, late of Springfield, now of Chicago, he knows how, and can and will make something out of it for you. Please write him.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To Henry E. Dummer

Springfield Dec 26, 1853.

H. E. Dummer, Esq.

My dear Sir: Butler has just shown me your letter to him concerning the Grubb debt; and in relation to your intimation that you might be induced to

[1] Original owned by Mr. Judd Stewart.

sell it, he desires me to say to you that in a few days over three months, he is sure to get the principal of the debt (without interest) and that after you shall have received this information, he will entertain any proposition you may make to sell.

Please write him again.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To John Marshall [1]

Springfield, Feby. 8, 1854.

Hon. John Marshall

Shawneetown, Ills.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 1st inst. was received yesterday. I went at once to the Express Office, got the books, placed twenty-three of them at one Book-Store, & twenty-four at another, for sale, at a commission of ten per cent, and took their receipts. Of the other three books, I took one to the Register, one to the Journal, and took one home with me. I found that the editors and booksellers had all previously seen favorable notices of the work; and one of the booksellers had sent an order to Cincinnati for some copies of it. I am not much of a reader of this sort of literature; but my wife got hold of the volume I took home, read

[1] One of the Territorial Judges of Illinois and the founder of the first bank in the State. Original owned by Mrs. H. H. Hayes, a granddaughter of Judge Marshall.

it half through last night, and is greatly interested in it. When the papers here shall have noticed it, I will send you copies. The charge at the Express office was only $1.50; I return herewith one dollar, & hold fifty cents subject to your order.

My attention to the matter has been rather a pleasure than a trouble.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To O. L. Davis [1]

Springfield June 22, 1854.

O. L. Davis, Esq.

Dear Sir: — You, no doubt, remember the enclosed memorandum being handed me in your office.

I have just made the desired search, and find that no such deed has ever been here. Campbell, the auditor, says that if it were here, it would be in his office, and that he has hunted for it a dozen times, and could never find it. He says that one time and another, he has heard much about the matter, that it was not a deed for Right of Way, but a deed, outright, for Depot-ground — at least, a *sale* for Depot-ground, and there may never have been a deed. He says, if there is a deed, it is most probable General Alexander, of Paris, has it.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] A lawyer of Illinois. Printed in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., vii, 381.

To Richard S. Thomas

Springfield, Aug. 24, 1854.

Hon. R. S. Thomas.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 19th was received day before yesterday. The payee of the note did write me that he had written Allard on the subject of the note in your hands; so that when Allard shows you the letter, you need not doubt its genuineness.

If the letter does unconditionally, or only with the condition of any consent, agree to take $110. and my fee, settle the matter that way. As to the amount of my fee, take ten dollars, which you and I will divide equally.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln.

To Richard Yates [1]

Naples, Oct. 30, 1854.

Dear Yates: I am here now going to Quincy, to try to give Mr. Williams a little life. I expect to be back in time to speak at Carlinville on Saturday, if thought expedient. What induces me to write now is that at Jacksonville as I came down to-day, I

[1] The future War Governor of Illinois was at this time running for Congress, and Lincoln was stumping for him. Original owned by Governor Edward F. Dunne, of Illinois.

learned that the English in Morgan county have become dissatisfied about No-Nothingism. Our friends, however, think they have got the difficulty arrested. Nevertheless, it would be safe, I think, to do something on the subject which you alone can do.

The inclosed letter, or draft of a letter, I have drawn up, of which I think it would be well to make several copies, and have one placed in the hand of a safe friend, at each precinct where any considerable number of foreign citizens, German as well as English vote. Not knowing exactly where a letter will reach you soonest, I fear this can not be very promptly attended to; but if the copies get into the proper hands the day before the election, it will be time enough.

The whole of this is, of course, subject to your own judgment.

LINCOLN.

To Jacob Harding [1]

CLINTON, DEWITT CO., NOV. 11, 1854.

J. HARDING, ESQ.

My dear Sir: I have a suspicion that a whig has been selected to the Legislature from Edgar. If this is not so, why then "*nix cum arous*," but if it is so then could you not make a mark with him for

[1] At Paris, Ill. Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

me for U.S. Senator? I really have some chance. Please write me at Springfield, giving me the names, post offices and political positions, of your representative and senator whoever they may be.

Let this be confidential.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Orville H. Browning

Springfield, Nov. 12, 1854.

Dear Browning: At daylight this morning after the election, I had to go to court at Dewitt county, and I then had nothing of any account to write you. On my return last night, I found your letter. Yates is beaten from 100 to 150. The whole thing was done in Morgan and Scott counties; in all the rest of the District we did better than we expected. The quarrel over the Insane Asylum and the turning of about 200 English whigs in the two counties against him, because of Know-Nothingism was what did the work for him. He now has in the two counties only about 100 majority, whereas two years ago he had 521.

We now understand here that Mr. Williams is beaten also. Schuyler and Brown are said to have played thunder.

It looks as if Anti-Nebraska will have the H.R., the senate doubtful. By the returns in, Miller

appears to have beaten Moore for Treasurer. The only thing that throws doubt upon this is, that there is not much in from the South yet; and among the little that is in, there are some favorable signs to Moore. For instance, in Green, Hains beats Yates over 400 while Moore beats Miller over 900. Also in St. Clair Moore has over 900 majority, while on the contrary Trumbull and Anti-Nebraska generally have about 900 majority.

In all other places heard from Moore is getting along about like Nebraska. From what I see I think he must be beaten an average of 2500 in each of four Northern Congressional Districts. Washburn,[1] Woodworth, Norton and Knox are certainly elected. It is believed Norton has a majority in every county of his District — in Vermillion alone 1120. Trumbull's election is sure by a very large majority. The Democrats here claim that Allen is reëlected; and I fear it is so, though it is not quite certain. In the four Northern counties, old Col. Archer gains over 400 on him; and I can hear nothing from any other county, though it is probable that the dems. have something.

I believe this is all I know.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] Elihu B. Washburne, who, unlike his brothers, spelled his name with an *e*.

To Leonard Swett [1]

Springfield Dec. 17, 1854.

L. Swett, Esq.,

Dear Sir: I cannot learn of a single copy of the Revised Codes being here for sale. Sorry but it seems to be so.

Does the Rev. John S. Barger occasionally cross your path?

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

To Henry E. Dummer

Springfield, March 10, 1855.

H. E. Dummer, Esq.

My dear Sir: A firm of lawyers in New York have sent me a money bond of $2000. for collection.[2] Both the parties to the bond reside in New York but the obligor has a farm of 330 acres within about a mile of Rushville in Schuyler county, out of which by an attachment sent the obligor wishes collection to be made. As I do not practice in Rushville, I have concluded to send you this job, if you will write me saying you will take it. What

[1] A distinguished trial lawyer of Illinois.

[2] See letter of the same date to Sanford, Porter & Striker, the law firm referred to, in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, Tandy's ed., 1905, II, 278.

say you? The attorneys who send me the claim say their client is a good responsible man.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln

To Henry E. Dummer

Springfield March 19, 1855.

Dear Dummer: Yours of the 11th is just received. Herewith are the bond and both of the letters of my correspondents in relation to it. The letters contain all the information I have on the subject. I wrote them the same day I wrote you that I was going to send you the claim if you would take it.

Logan is willing to take the vacant seat on the Supreme Bench, but he is very anxious to not be beaten, if he is put on the track as a candidate. Our friends here, and everywhere so far as I have heard, are for him; but it behooves us to be wide awake. At the last congressional election there was a small majority against us in the middle Division. I am quite anxious for Logan's election, first because he will make the best Judge, and second because it would hurt his feelings to be beaten more than it would almost any one else.

Your friend as ever

A. Lincoln.

To Jacob Harding[1]

Danville May 25, 1855.

Friend Harding: I have been reading your paper three or four years, and have paid you nothing for it. Herewith is a receipt of Sylvanus Sandford for two claims amounting to ten dollars. If he has collected the money, get it from him, and put it into your pocket, saying nothing further about it.

And now, if you please, I should be glad for you to put in your paper of this week the names of Stephen T. Logan as a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court; and of Stephen A. Corneau, for clerk of the Supreme Court.

Please also print, and distribute a suitable number of tickets for them; and we at Springfield will pay the reasonable charge.

As the sir-name [*sic*] of our candidate for clerk is rather an uncommon one, I try to write it very plainly — Corneau, the last letter being, not an "N" but an U.

Very truly yours,

A. Lincoln.

[1] Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

To P. H. Watson [1]

Springfield, Ill., July 23, 1855.

P. H. Watson, Esq.,
Washington, D.C.,

My dear Sir: At our interview here in June, I understood you to say you would send me copies of the Bill and Answer in the case of McCormick [2] vs. Manny [3] and Co. and also of depositions, as fast as they could be taken and printed. I have had nothing from you since. However, I attended the U.S. Court at Chicago, and while there, got copies of the Bill and Answer. I write this particularly to urge you to forward on to me the additional evidence as fast as you can. During August, and the remainder of this month, I can devote some time to the case, and, of course, I want all the material that can be had.

During my stay at Chicago, I went out to Rockford, and spent half a day, examining and studying Manny's Machine.

I think you ought to be sworn before the evi-

[1] A prominent patent lawyer, afterwards Assistant Secretary of War under Lincoln and Stanton. Edwin M. Stanton was also associated with Lincoln in the defense of the case referred to in this letter, while Reverdy Johnson and E. N. Dickinson acted for the plaintiff. The defense won the case. This was the beginning of Lincoln's acquaintance with Stanton. Original owned by Mr. J. L. Smith, Ashtabula, O.

[2] Cyrus H. McCormick.

[3] John H. Manny, of Rockford, Ill.

dence closes: of this however I leave you and others to judge. Very truly Yours,

A. Lincoln.

To Owen Lovejoy

Springfield, August 11, 1855.

Mr. Owen Lovejoy,

My dear Sir: Yours of the 7th. was received the day before yesterday. Not even you are more anxious to prevent the extension of slavery than I. And yet the political atmosphere is such, just now, that I fear to do anything, lest I do wrong. Know Nothingism has not yet entirely tumbled to pieces. Nay, it is even a little encouraged by the late elections in Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. Until we can get the elements of this organization there is not sufficient material to successfully combat the Nebraska democracy with. We cannot get them so long as they cling to a hope of success under their own organization; and I fear an open push by us now may offend them and tend to prevent our ever getting them. About us here, they are mostly my old political and personal friends, and I have hoped this organization would die out without the painful necessity of my taking an open stand against them. Of their principles I think little better than I do of those of the slavery extensionists. Indeed I do not perceive how any

one professing to be sensitive to the wrongs of the negro, can join in a league to degrade a class of white men. I have no objection to "fuse" with any body provided I can fuse on grounds which I think right. And I believe the opponents of slavery extension could now do this if it were not for the K.N.ism. In many speeches last summer I advised those who did me the honor of a hearing to "stand with" any body who stands right, and I am still quite willing to follow my own advice. I lately saw in the Quincy Whig the report of a preamble and resolution made by Mr. Williams, as chairman of a committee, to a public meeting and adopted by the meeting. I saw them but once, and have them not now at command, but so far as I can remember them they occupy the ground I should be willing to "fuse" upon. As to my personal movements this summer and fall, I am quite busy trying to pick up my lost crumbs of last year. I shall be here till September; then with Circuit till the 20th, then to Cincinnati awhile, after a Patent Right case, and back to the Circuit to the end of November. I can be seen here any time this month and at Bloomington at any time from the 10th. to the 17th. of September. As to an extra session of the Legislature, I should know no better how to bring that about than to lift myself over a fence by the straps of my boots.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To Manny & Co.[1]

Springfield, Sept. 1, 1855.

Messrs. Manny and Co.
Rockford, Ill.

Since I left Chicago about the 18th of July, I have heard nothing concerning the Reaper suit. I addressed a letter to Mr. Watson, at Washington, requesting him to forward me the evidence, from time to time, as it should be taken, but I have received no answer from him.

Is it still the understanding that the case is to be heard at Cincinnati on the 20th inst.?

Please write me on the receipt of this.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Isham Reavis [2]

Springfield, Nov'r 5, 1855.

Isham Reavis, Esq.

My Dear Sir: I have just reached home, and found your letter of the 23rd ult. I am from home too much of my time, for a young man to read law with me advantageously. If you are resolutely determined to make a lawyer of yourself, the

[1] See note on p. 58. Original owned by Mr. J. L. Smith, Ashtabula, O.

[2] From a copy in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society.

thing is more than half done already. It is but a small matter whether you read with any body or not. I did not read with any one. Get the books, and read and study them till you understand them in their principal features; and that is the main thing. It is of no consequence to be in a large town while you are reading. I read at New Salem, which never had three hundred people living in it. The books, and your capacity for understanding them, are just the same in all places. Mr. Dummer is a very clever man and an excellent lawyer (much better than I, in law-learning); and I have no doubt he will cheerfully tell you what books to read, and also loan you the books.

Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing. Very truly your friend,

A. Lincoln.

To A. L. Brewer

Springfield, Ills., Nov 5, 1855.

A. L. Brewer, Esq.

Would have answered sooner, but was absent. At the September term, the defendant made fight, with apparent confidence, but the court decided for us, and we got judgement for the amount of the old judgement and interest. The main point taken in defence was that a bar on a short Act of Limitations

we have here, had been completed after the claim was filed, in the Probate Court, but before a formal suit was brought. The court held that the filing of the claim saved the statute's bar. They took exceptions and talk of going to the supreme court. That court sits in January and I have thought it best to wait till after the first term before I begin to press for payment.

A. Lincoln

To G. U. Miles[1]

Springfield, Feb. 14, 1856

G. U. Miles, Esq.
Petersburg, Ills.

Dear sir: Major Harris left a letter with me, in order that I might do something for you, in regard to your Goodman, or McAtee land. I understand the facts of the case to be as follows —

Dec. 25, 1840. Christian Goodman gave his note and a mortgage on this land (S. E. fr. 1/4 of Sec: 22–17–1) to William W. Vigal, to secure $112 with twelve per cent.

Jany. 7, 1842. Note credited $50.

Jany. 7, 1842. Note assigned by Vigal to Thomas Lewis.

Aug. 20, 1842. Note assigned by Lewis to F. T. King.

[1] Son-in-law of William H. Herndon, Lincoln's partner.

Jany. 2, 1843. Note assigned by King to Webster and Hickox.

In 1850 or 1851 I commenced a foreclosure suit on the note and mortgage, in the Circuit Court of Sangamon county, for Webster and Hickox.

While this suit was pending, Goodman sold the *land* to McAtee, and Webster and Hickox also sold the note and mortgage to McAtee; and Mr. Hickox directed me to do no more with the suit for him and Webster, but to hold it up subject to the direction of McAtee. So the suit has stood ever since, and still stands.

I now learn from Major Harris' letter that McAtee died, and that the land has since been sold (by the administrator of McAtee, to pay debts) to John Baker; and that Baker has since sold to you. The reason I write you is, that I cannot understand from the Major's letter precisely what your difficulty is. He tells me that McAtee bought the land of Goodman; and if this is so, and Goodman deeded it to him, I do not perceive that you are in any difficulty at all. Did McAtee pay Goodman for the land? Did Goodman deed it to McAtee? If either of them is true, Goodman's heirs have no right to the land, though his widow would have dower, if she did not join in the deed. Please write me; and return me this letter, as it will save me hunting up the facts again. Yours &c,

A. Lincoln.

To G. U. Miles

Springfield, Ills. Feby 17, 1856.

G. U. Miles —

But, my dear Sir, I understand the land is worth $1200 or $1500. Now deduct credit, and count interest on the note and you will find that $203.41 is the utmost a decree could be rendered for up to Jany 7, 1856.

Suppose I foreclose, you will bid the same; if nobody bids more all will be well; but somebody will bid more; and then how will you stand?

You will have to let the land go for that sum; or bid higher and advance the cash for all above that sum. Don't you see?

A. Lincoln.

To Gustave Koerner [1]

Springfield, Feb. 18, 1856.

Hon. G. P. Koerner.

My dear sir: You left here sooner than I expected; else I should have asked you on what terms you settled your fee in the case in connection with which we met at Carlinville last fall. I think you said you had no objection to tell me. If you have not please write me at once, as I wish to regulate my claim somewhat by yours.

Very truly yours, A. Lincoln.

[1] Lieutenant-Governor of Illinois.

To George P. Floyd [1]

Springfield, Illinois,
February 21, 1856.

Mr. George P. Floyd,
Quincy, Illinois.

Dear Sir: I have just received yours of 16th, with check on Flagg & Savage for twenty-five dollars. You must think I am a high-priced man. You are too liberal with your money.

Fifteen dollars is enough for the job. I send you a receipt for fifteen dollars, and return to you a ten-dollar bill.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [2]

Springfield, June 7, 1856

Hon. Lyman Trumbull

My dear Sir: The news of Buchanan's nomination came yesterday; and a good many Whigs, of conservative feelings, and slight pro-slavery pro-

[1] Mr. Floyd had leased a hotel at Quincy, Ill., and had employed Lincoln to draw up the papers. Reprinted from an article by Floyd in *McClure's Magazine*, xxx, 303 (Jan., 1908).

[2] This and the letters on pp. 69, 82, 83, 87, 96, 98, 100, 119, 122, 136, 137, 140, 142, 144, 147, 151, 153, 168, 171, and 173 are from an article entitled "A Lincoln Correspondence," by William H. Lambert, in the *Century Magazine*, iv, 17 (Feb., 1909).

clivities, withal, are inclining to go for him, and will do it, unless the Anti-Nebraska nomination shall be such as to divert them. The man to effect that object is Judge McLean; and his nomination would save every Whig, except such as have already gone over hook and line, as Singleton, Morrison, Constable, & others. J. T. Stuart, Anthony Thornton, James M. Davis (the old settler) and others like them, will heartily go for McLean, but will every one go for Buchanan, as against Chase, Banks, Seward, Blair or Frémont? I think they would stand Blair or Frémont for Vice-President — but not more.

Now there is a grave question to be considered. Nine tenths of the Anti-Nebraska votes have to come from old Whigs. In setting stakes, is it safe to totally disregard them? Can we possibly win, if we do so? So far they have been disregarded. I need not point out the instances.

I think I may trust you to believe I do not say this on my own personal account. I am *in*, and shall go for any one nominated unless he be "*platformed*" expressly, or impliedly, on some ground which I may think wrong. Since the nomination of Bissell we are in good trim in Illinois, save at the point I have indicated. If we can save pretty nearly all the Whigs, we shall elect him, I think, by a very large majority.

I address this to you, because your influence in

the Anti-Nebraska nomination will be greater than that of any other Illinoian [sic].

Let this be confidential,

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln.

To B. Clarke Lundy and Others[1]

Springfield, July 28, 1856.

B. Clarke Lundy & Others:

On reaching home day before yesterday, I found your letter of the 15th. I regret to say I can not be with you on the 4th of Sept. I am under prior obligation to attend a meeting of our friends at Galesburg on that day, if I can possibly leave our courts, which will then be in session.

Stand by the *cause*, and the cause will carry you through.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To John M. Palmer[2]

Springfield Aug 1st, 1856.

Hon. J. M. Palmer.

Dear sir: It is our judgement that whether you do or do not finally stand as a Candidate for Con-

[1] Dr. B. C. Lundy was the son of Benjamin Lundy, the Abolitionist, of Baltimore.

[2] A major-general of volunteers in the War and Governor of Illinois, 1869–73.

gress, it is better for you to not to publicly decline for a while. It is a long time to the Election, and what may turn up no one can tell.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln
Richard Yates
W. H. Herndon
Wm. Jayne

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Aug: 11. 1856

Hon: L. Trumbull:

My dear Sir: I have just returned from speaking at Paris and Grandview in Edgar County — & Charleston and Shelbyville, in Coles and Shelby counties. Our whole trouble along there has been & is Fillmoreism. It loosened considerably during the week, not under my preaching, but under the election returns from Mo., Ky., Ark., & N.C. I think we shall ultimately get all the Fillmore men, who are really anti-slavery extension — the rest will probably go to Buchanan where they rightfully belong; if they do not, so much the better for us. The great difficulty with anti-slavery extension Fillmore men, is that they suppose Fillmore as good as Frémont on that question; and it is a delicate point to argue them out of

[1] See note on p. 66.

it, they are so ready to think you are *abusing* Mr. Fillmore.

Mr. Conkling showed me a letter of yours, from which I infer you will not be in Ills. till 11th Sept.

But for that I was going to write you to make appointments at Paris, Charleston, Shelbyville, Hillsboro, &c — immediately after the adjournment. They were tolerably well satisfied with my work along there; but they believe with me, that you can touch some points that I can not; and they are very anxious to have you do it.

Yours as ever A. Lincoln.

To R. M. Ewing

Springfield, Nov. 12, 1856

R. M. Ewing, Esq.
Petersburg, Ills.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 8th inclosing the forged article from the "New York Tribune" published in the *Menard Index* was received yesterday. Although the getting up of the thing was intended to deceive, and was very malicious and wicked, I do not think much could be made by exposing it. When you shall have exposed it, they will then say they merely meant it as a "take off" and never intended it to be understood as genuine.

If you have a local paper there to simply denounce it as a forgery, that would be well enough;

but I doubt whether any thing else can be done with it to advantage.

I am truly glad you are determined to fight on. In the next struggle I hope we shall be able to pull together. Let us all try to make it so.

Yours respectfully, A. Lincoln.

To Rev. James Lemen [1]

Springfield, Illinois March 2, 1857.

Rev. James Lemen,

Friend Lemen: Thanking you for your warm appreciation of my view in a former letter as to the importance in many features of your collection of old family notes and papers, I will add a few words more as to Elijah P. Lovejoy's case. His letters among your old family notes were of more interest to me than even those of Thomas Jefferson, written to your father. Of course they [the latter] were exceedingly important as a part of the history of the "Jefferson-Lemen Anti-Slavery Pact," under which your father, Rev. James Lemen, Sr., as Jefferson's anti-slavery agent in Illinois, founded his anti-slavery churches, among which was the present Bethel church, which set in motion the forces which finally made Illinois a free state, all of which was splendid; but Lovejoy's tragic death for freedom in every sense marked his sad ending as the

[2] From W. C. MacNaul's *Jefferson-Lemen Compact*, 1915.

most important single event that ever happened in the new world.

Both your father and Lovejoy were pioneer leaders in the cause of freedom, and it has always been difficult for me to see why your father, who was a resolute, uncompromising, and aggressive leader, who boldly proclaimed his purpose to make both the territory and the state free, never aroused nor encountered any of that mob violence which both in St. Louis and Alton confronted or pursued Lovejoy, and finally doomed him to a felon's death and a martyr's crown. Perhaps the two cases are a little parallel with those of John and Peter. John was bold and fearless at the scene of the Crucifixion, standing near the cross receiving the Savior's request to care for his mother, but was not annoyed; while Peter, whose disposition [was] to shrink from public view, seemed to catch the attention of members of the mob on every hand, until finally to throw public attention off, he denied his master with an oath; though later the grand old apostle redeemed himself grandly, and like Lovejoy, died a martyr to his faith. Of course, there was no similarity between Peter's treachery at the Temple and Lovejoy's splendid courage when the pitiless mob were closing around him. But in the cases of the two apostles at the scene mentioned, John was more prominent or loyal in his presence and attention to the Great Master than Peter was, but the latter

seemed to catch the attention of the mob; and as Lovejoy, one of the most inoffensive of men, for merely printing a small paper, devoted to the freedom of the body and mind of man, was pursued to his death; while his older comrade in the cause of freedom, Rev. James Lemen, Sr., who boldly and aggressively proclaimed his purpose to make both the territory and the state free, was never molested a moment by the minions of violence. The madness and pitiless determination with which the mob steadily pursued Lovejoy to his doom, marks it as one of the most unreasoning and unreasonable in all time, except that which doomed the Savior to the cross.

If ever you should come to Springfield again, do not fail to call. The memory of our many "evening sittings" here and elsewhere, as we called them, suggests many a pleasant hour, both pleasant and helpful.

Truly yours, A. Lincoln.

To Jesse K. Dubois [1]

Springfield, April 6, 1857.

Hon. J. K. Dubois,
Auditor

Dear Sir: — In answer to your queries in relation to the fourth, eighth and ninth sections of the

[1] Illinois Auditor of State.

bank law of February 14, 1857, and the other provisions of law therein referred to, I give as my opinion, First: That *no stocks whatever* can be received by you at any greater rate of valuation than ten per cent less than the market price of said stocks, such market price to be ascertained, according to the old law.

Second: That no *non-interest* paying bonds can, in any event, be received by you at any greater rate than fifty cents to the dollar and not even for that much, unless that market price shall be as high as sixty, the old law not being altered by the new, in this respect.

Third: That in relation to the banks already in existence no new duty is imposed on you by the eighth section of the new law, *unless such banks apply for the issuing of new circulating notes*, in which case, it is your duty to be satisfied that they have the fifty thousand dollars actual cash capital, before you issue such new notes.

Note. As to the old law, I would follow [?] the construction of the old Auditor, till further advised.

Fourth: That in relation, both to old and new banks, in the very language of the ninth section of the new law "No more circulating notes shall be issued, under any circumstances to any bank or association organized under said act until the Auditor shall be satisfied that such bank or association has such actual capital as is required

in the first" (eighth really meant) "section of this act."

This opinion is given as to your duty under the new law *after* it takes effect, and is not intended to apply to the time of between passage and its taking effect.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Joseph W. Brackett[1]

Springfield, May 18, 1857.

Joseph W. Brackett, Esq.

Dear Sir: Your three letters, two dated April 28th and the other May 1st were received by me on the 9th of May, when I returned home after an absence of two weeks. I went immediately to the Land Office to file the Declaration of Jacob Warner and Cyrus Conklin and failed to get the thing consummated in consequence of there being nothing in the Office showing the quantity of land in the tracts sought to be preëmpted. I think the Register's intentions were correct, but he was perplexed as to what he ought to do, because of the peculiarity of the case and consequently he put me off from time to time till now. Herewith I send you the certificates bearing date May 9th, being the day I first presented the Declarations.

[1] At Rock Island, Ill.

I shall be ready to assist further in the cases when occasion arises. One of your letters had one dollar in it, and another ten. I paid two to the Register and pocketed the other nine.

Yours, etc.

A. Lincoln

To Cornell, Waite & Jameson

Springfield, June 2, 1857.

Messrs. Cornell, Waite & Jameson,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen: Yours of the 29th was duly received. This morning I went to the Register with four hundred dollars in gold in my hand and tendered to the Register of the Land Office a written application to enter the land as you requested, all which the Register declined.

I have made a written memorandum of the facts, deposited the gold with J. Bunn (who furnished it to me on the draft you sent) and took his Certificate of deposit, which certificate and memorandum I hold subject to your order.

Now, if you please, send me ten dollars as a fee.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Gustave Koerner

Springfield, July 10, 1857.

Hon. G. Koerner.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8th to Lincoln and Herndon was received and opened by Mr. Herndon in my absence; but finding it relating to business with which I was more familiar he laid it by till my return which was only yesterday.

The judgement to Page and Bacon against the Ohio and Miss. Railroad Company in the United States court here, was taken, by confession on a cognovit, at the March term, 1856, for the sum of $312,413.74 including costs. Execution issued April 16th, 1856, which was by order of the plaintiffs returned unsatisfied, sale having been postponed June 6, 1856. While it was in the hands of the Marshal it was levied on the entire property of the Road (as I suppose, a large amount at any rate) which levy remains undisposed of.

Will you please remember that our Sangamon Circuit Court commences Aug. 10, when I suppose our Quo Warranto cases will come up, and when I shall be glad to have the benefit of your legal assistance.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Dr. B. Clarke Lundy[1]

Springfield, Aug. 5, 1857.

Dear Sir: Some time ago you wrote me expressing the opinion that something should be done now, to secure the next Legislature. You are perfectly right and I now suggest that, from the poll-books in the county clerk's office, you have made alphabetical lists of all the voters in each precinct or Township (I believe you have Township organizations) the lists to be in separate letter-books, and to be corrected by striking off such as may have died or removed, and adding such as will be entitled to vote at the next election. This will not be a heavy job, and you see how like a map, it lays the whole field before you. You know, at once, *how*, and with *whom* to work.

You will have no trouble to carry your county of Putnam, but you are (as I remember) part of the Peoria Senatorial District, and that is close and questionable, so that you need every vote you can get in Putnam.

Let all be so quiet that the adversary shall not be notified.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

[1] Original owned by Charles W. McLellan, Champlain, N.Y.

To Hannah Armstrong [1]

Springfield, Ill.,
Sept., 1857.

Dear Mrs. Armstrong: I have just heard of your deep affliction, and the arrest of your son for murder. I can hardly believe that he can be capable of the crime alleged against him. It does not seem possible. I am anxious that he should be given a fair trial at any rate; and gratitude for your long-continued kindness to me in adverse circumstances prompts me to offer my humble services gratuitously in his behalf.

It will afford me an opportunity to requite, in a small degree, the favors I received at your hand, and that of your lamented husband, when your roof afforded me a grateful shelter, without money and without price.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Samuel Briggs

Springfield, Sept. 29, 1857.

Samuel Briggs, Esq.

Dear Sir: Your letter in regard to organizing the town of Delevan, and also inclosing five dollars,

[1] Mother of Duff Armstrong, whom Lincoln defended on a charge of murder, obtaining a verdict of acquittal.

has been received. I have examined the statute and considered your questions, and am of opinion that the original election, having gone beyond the Town plot to the extent of a square mile, is lawful and valid. I think the Trustees can not exceed a mile square, as boundaries of the town, but may lessen them, within the mile square.

The five dollars is a sufficient fee.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

To Gustave Koerner

(*Confidential*)

Springfield, Oct. 25, 1857.

Hon. G. Koerner

My dear sir: Our Sangamon Circuit Court is now in session, and will continue in session for two or three weeks yet. By agreement with Logan, I can fix up your *Quo Warranto* case, at any time during the term, for the Supreme Court this ensuing winter. Now for the object of this note. I want your authority, *at my discretion*, to pass the case over the next term of the Supreme Court. I cannot mention the reason now; but there is a reason which I believe you will appreciate, when you come to know it. The reason is precisely the same to you and to me, not being of any pe-

cuniary interest to either. I write like letters to Brown and Yates. Please answer at once.

Yours very truly.

A. Lincoln

To O. Bailey

Springfield, Nov. 14, 1857.

O. Bailey, Esq.

Dear Sir: Your letter in relation to Railroad suits was duly received. I regret to say it is impossible for me to attend the courts in Coles or Edgar or any of the counties in Judge Harlan's circuit.

I should be pleased to oblige you if I could.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Joseph W. Brackett

Springfield, Nov. 27, 1857.

J. W. Brackett, Esq.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 7th was received in due course. I have been to the Land Office two or three times about it and for the last time, this morning. The Register will not receive and file the preemption proofs as you desire. He conceives it to be his duty to refuse.

Yours, &c

A. Lincoln

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Chicago, Nov. 30. 1857.

Hon: Lyman Trumbull.

Dear Sir: Herewith you find duplicates of a notice which I wish to be served upon the Miss French, or now Mrs. Gray, who married the late Franklin C. Gray. You understand what person I mean. Please hand her one copy, and note on the other that you have done so, the date of service, and your signature & return it to me at Springfield.

What think you of the probable "*rumpus*" among the Democracy over the Kansas Constitution? I think the Republicans should stand clear of it. In their view both the President and Douglas are wrong; and they should not espouse the cause of either, because they may consider the other a little the farther wrong of the two. From what I am told here, Douglas tried, before leaving, to draw off some Republicans on this dodge, and even succeeded in making some impression on one or two.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] See note on p. 66.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Dec. 18. 1857

Hon: L. Trumbull:

Dear Sir: Yours of the 7th telling me that Mrs. Gray *is* in Washington, reached [me] last night.

Herewith I return the notices which I will thank you to serve and return as before requested.

This notice is not required by *law;* and I am giving it merely because I think *fairness* requires it.

Nearly all the Democrats here stick to Douglas; but they are hobbling along with the idea that there is no split between him and Buchanan. Accordingly they indulge the most extravagant eulogies on B., & his message; and insist that he has not indorsed the Lecompton Constitution.

I wish not to tax your time; but when you return the notice, I shall be glad to have your general view of the then present aspect of affairs.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln

To Lyman Trumbull [2]

Bloomington, Dec. 28. 1857.

Hon. Lyman Trumbull.

Dear Sir: What does the "New York Tribune" mean by its constant eulogising, and admiring,

[1] See note on p. 66. [2] See note on p. 66.

and magnifying Douglas? Does it, in this, speak the sentiments of the Republicans at Washington? Have they concluded that the Republican cause, generally, can be best prompted by sacrificing us here in Illinois? If so we would like to know it soon; it will save us a great deal of labor to surrender at once.

As yet I have heard of no Republican here going over to Douglas; but if the "Tribune" continues to din his praises into the ears of its five or ten thousand Republican readers in Illinois, it is more than can be hoped that all will stand firm.

I am not complaining — I only wish a fair understanding. Please write me at Springfield.

Your Obt Servt.

A. Lincoln

To Andrew McCallen

Springfield, June 19, 1858.

Hon. A. McCallen.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 12th by the hand of Mr. Edwards was duly received. I conversed several times freely with Mr. Olney, and I do not perceive that we here or the general convention here could rightfully determine anything between Messrs. Olney and Wiley. You in the District must fix that.

Let me make a remark not suggested by your

letter. I think too much reliance is placed in noisy demonstrations, importing speakers from a distance and the like. They excite prejudice and close the avenues to sober reason. The "home-production" principle in my judgement is the best. You and Sexton and Olney and others whose hearts are in the work should quietly form your plans and carry them out energetically among your own neighbors. You perceive my idea; and I really think it the best.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln.

To Orville H. Browning

Springfield, June 22, 1858.

O. H. Browning, Esq.

My dear Sir: Mrs. Macready has appeared here again this morning; and it now occurs to me as strange that I did not think to ask you *whether* you can surely be on hand at the next term, if we continue the case till then. Can you? Answer as soon as possible after receiving this. If you can possibly be here at this term say so, and about what day; but I understood you that probably you cannot be here again at this term.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To John L. Scripps [1]

Springfield June 23, 1858.

John L. Scripps, Esq.

My dear Sir: Your kind note of yesterday is duly received. I am much flattered by the estimate you place on my late speech; and yet I am much mortified that any part of it should be construed so differently from any thing intended by me. The language, "place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in course of ultimate extinction," I used deliberately, not dreaming then, nor believing now, that it asserts or intimates any power or purpose, to interfere with slavery in the states where it exists. But to not cavil about language, I declare that whether the clause used by me will bear such construction or not, I never so intended it. I have declared a thousand times, and now repeat that, in my opinion, neither the General Government, nor any other power outside of the slave states, can constitutionally or rightfully interfere with slaves or slavery where it already exists. I believe that whenever the effort to spread slavery into the new territories, by whatever means, and into the free states themselves, by Supreme Court decisions, shall be fairly headed off, the institution will then be in course of

[1] A Chicago journalist, author of the first biography of Lincoln, *New York Tribune Tracts*, No. 6 (1860).

ultimate extinction; and by the language used I meant only this.

I do not intend this for publication; but still you may show it to any one you think fit. I think I shall, as you suggest, take some early occasion to publicly repeat the declaration I have already so often made as before stated.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, June 23, 1858

Hon. Lyman Trumbull

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th reached me only yesterday. We had already seen, by telegraph, a report of Douglas' general onslaught upon everybody but himself. I have this morning seen the "Washington Union," in which I think the Judge is rather worsted [worried?] in regard to that onslaught.

In relation to the charge of an alliance between the Republicans and Buchanan men in this State, if being rather pleased to see a division in the ranks of the Democracy, and not doing anything to prevent it, be such alliance, then there is such alliance, — at least that is true of me. But if it be intended to charge that there is any alliance by which there

[1] See note on p. 66.

is to be any concession of principle on either side, or furnishing of the sinews, or partition of offices, or swopping of votes, to any extent; or the doing of anything, great or small, on the one side, for a consideration, express or implied, on the other, no such thing is true so far as I know or believe.

Before this reaches you, you will have seen the proceedings of our Republican State Convention. It was really a grand affair, and was, in all respects, all that our friends could desire.

The resolution in effect nominating me for Senator I suppose was passed more for the object of closing down upon this everlasting croaking about Wentworth than anything else.

The signs look reasonably well. Our State ticket, I think, will be elected without much difficulty. But, with the advantages they have of us, we shall be very hard run to carry the Legislature.

We shall greet your return home with great pleasure.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln.

To Robert Moseley

Springfield, July 2, 1858.

Robert Moseley, Esq.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th is received, and for which I thank you. Herewith I send a little

article which I wish you would have published in the "Prairie Beacon" next week.

Besides my own recollection I have carefully examined the journals since I saw you and I know the editor will be entirely safe in publishing the article. Get it into the first paper.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Gustave Koerner [1]

Springfield July 15, 1858.

Hon. G. Koerner.

My dear Sir: I have just been called on by one of our German republicans here, to ascertain if Mr. Hecker could not be prevailed on to visit this region and address the Germans, at this place, and a few others at least. Please ascertain and write me. He would of course have to be paid something. Find out from him about how much.

I have just returned from Chicago. Douglas took nothing by his motion there — in fact, by his rampant endorsement of the Dred Scott decision he drove back a few republicans who were favorably inclined towards him. His tactics just now, in part is, to make it appear that he is having a triumphal entry into, and march through the country; but it is all as bombastic and hollow

[1] Original owned by Miss Sophia M. Rombauer, St. Louis, Mo.

as Napoleon's bulletins sent back from his campaign in Russia. I was present at his reception in Chicago, and it was certainly very large and imposing; but judging from the opinions of others better acquainted with faces there, and by the strong call for me to speak, when he closed, I really believe we could have voted him down in that very crowd.

Our meeting, twenty-four hours after, called only twelve hours before it came together and got up without trumpery, was really as large and five times as enthusiastic.

I write this for your private eye, to assure you that there is no solid shot in these bombastic parades of his.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Henry E. Dummer

Springfield July 20, 1858.

Henry E. Dummer, Esq.

My dear Sir: When I was in Beardstown last spring, Dr. Sprague said if I would leave a bill, he would pay it before long. I do not now remember that I spoke to you about it. I am now in need of money. Suppose we say the amount shall be $50.? If the Dr. is satisfied with that, please get the money and send it to me.

And while you have pen in hand, tell me what you may know about politics down your way.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Henry C. Whitney [1]

Springfield, August 2, 1858.

Dear Whitney: Yours of the 31st is just received. I shall write to B. C. Cook [2] at Ottawa and to Lovejoy himself on the subject you suggest.

Pardon me for not writing a longer letter. I have a great many letters to write. I was at Monticello Thursday evening. Signs all very good.

Your friend as ever

A. Lincoln.

To Henry E. Dummer [3]

Springfield, Aug. 5 1858.

Friend Dummer: Yours, not dated, just received. No accident preventing I shall be at Beardstown

[1] A close legal and political associate of Lincoln and a personal friend; author of *Life on the Circuit with Lincoln* and a posthumous *Life of Lincoln* (1908). This letter was reproduced in facsimile in *Life on the Circuit with Lincoln*, p. 492.

[2] Burton C. Cook. For a letter of this date referring apparently to Whitney's letter, see *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, Tandy's ed., 1905, III, 198.

[3] By courtesy of William F. Dummer, Chicago Historical Society.

on the 12th. I thank you for the contents of your letter generally. I have not time now to notice the various points you suggest, but I will say I do not understand the Republican party to be committed to the proposition "No more slave States." I think they are not so committed. Most certainly they prefer there should be no more, but I know there are many of them who think we are under obligations to admit slave States from Texas, if such shall be presented for admission; but I think the party as such is not committed either way.

Your friend as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Gustave Koerner

Springfield, Aug. 6, 1858.

Hon. G. Koerner.

My dear Sir: Yesterday morning I found a drop letter from Governor Bissell [1] urging, partly in consequence of a letter from you, that my late speeches, or some of them shall be printed in pamphlet form both in English and German. Having had a good many letters to the same effect, I went at once to the Journal office here, and set them to work to print me in English fifty dollars worth of my last speech at Springfield, July 17th, that appearing, by what I hear, to be the most

[1] William H. Bissell, Republican Governor of Illinois.

"taking" speech I have made. For that sum they will furnish about 7000; they will, at the same time, print some more, on their account, and keep the type standing for a while. I also wrote to Judd yesterday to get the same speech done up there in German. When I hear from him I will write you again.

Some things are passing strange. Wednesday morning Douglas' paper here, the "Register," went out crowing over the defeat of Blair at St. Louis, and Blair's paper, the "Missouri Democrat," comes back the next day puffing and encouraging Douglas!

Please write me on receipt of this and let me know if you have any news from Madison. Every place seems to be coming up to my expectations except Madison.

Your friend as ever,

A. Lincoln

To Norman B. Judd [1]

Ashville, Oct. 20, 1858.

Hon. N. B. Judd,

My dear Sir: — I now have a high degree of confidence that we shall succeed, if we are not over

[1] Chairman of the Illinois delegation in the Republican Convention of 1860; Minister to Prussia, 1861–65; and Congressman, 1867–71. Original owned by Mr. Frederick M. Steele, Highland Park, Ill.

run with fraudulent votes to a greater extent than usual. On alighting from the cars and walking the square at Naples on Monday, I met about fifteen Celtic gentlemen, with black carpet sacks in their hands.

I learned that they had crossed over from the railroad in Brown county, but where they were going no one could tell. They dropped in about the doggeries, and were still hanging about when I left. At Brown County yesterday, I was told that about four hundred of the same sort were to be brought into Schuyler, before the election to work on some new railroad, but on reaching here I find Bagly thinks that is not so. What I most dread is that they will introduce into the doubtful districts numbers of men who are legal voters in all respects except *residence* and who will swear to residence and thus put it beyond our power to exclude them. They can and I fear will swear falsely on that point, because they know it is next to impossible to convict them of perjury upon it.

Now the great reassuring fact of the campaign, is finding a way to head this thing off. Can it be done at all?

I have a bare suggestion. When there is a known body of these voters, could not a true man, of the "*detective*" class, be introduced among them in disguise, who could, at the nick of time, control their votes? Think this over. It would be a great thing,

when this trick is attempted upon us, to have the saddle come up on the other horse.

I have talked, more fully than I can write, to Mr. Scripps, and he will talk to you.

If we can head off the fraudulent votes we shall carry the day.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To John Moses

Blandonville, Oct. 24, 1858.

Hon John Moses

My Dear Sir: Throw on all your weight. Some things I have heard make me think your case is not desperate as you thought when I was in Winchester. Put in your best licks.

Yours in haste

A. Lincoln.

To Gen. Eleazar A. Paine [1]

Springfield, Nov. 19, 1858.

Gen. Eleazar A. Paine.

Dear Sir: . . . Well, the election is over; and, in the main point, we are beaten. Still my view is that the fight must go on. Let no one falter. The

[1] A lawyer of Monmouth, Ill. This letter probably enclosed one from Dr. A. G. Henry to Lincoln. See letter to Henry in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, I, 521, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, V, 94.

question is not half settled. New splits and divisions will soon be upon our adversaries, and we shall fuse again.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To Dr. B. Clarke Lundy [1]

Springfield, Nov. 26, 1858.

Dr. B. C. Lundy:

My dear Sir: Your kind letter with enclosure is received, and for which I thank you. It being my own judgement that the fight must go on, it affords me great pleasure to learn that our friends are nowhere dispirited.

There will be another "blow up" in the democracy. Douglas managed to be supported both as the best instrument to *break down*, and to *up-hold* the slave power. No ingenuity can keep this deception — this double position — up a great while.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull

Springfield, Dec. 11, 1858.

Hon. L. Trumbull.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 7th enclosing one from Mr. Underwood is received. I have not

[1] Copied from a facsimile.

Springfield, Nov. 21, 1858

Dr. B. C. Lundy:

My dear Sir

Your kind letter, with ~~inclosure~~ inclosure, is received, and for which I thank you. It being my own judgment that the fight must go on, it affords me great pleasure to learn that our friends are no-when disjointed. There will be another "blow up" in the democracy. Douglas managed to be supported both as the best instrument to break down, and to uphold the slave power. No ingenuity can keep this deception — this double position — up a great while.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln.

the slightest thought of being a candidate for Congress in this District. I am not spoken of in the connection; and I can scarcely conceive what has misled Mr. Underwood in regard to the matter.

As to what we shall do, the Republicans are a little divided. The Danites[1] say if we will stand out of the way, they will run a man, and divide the democratic forces with the Douglasites; and some of our friends are in favor of this course. Others think such a course would demoralize us, and hurt us in the future; and they, of course, are in favor of running a man of our own at all events. This latter view will probably prevail.

Since you left, Douglas has gone South, making characteristic speeches, and seeking to reinstate himself in that section. The majority of the democratic politicians of the nation mean to kill him; but I doubt whether they will adopt the aptest way to do it. Their true way is to present him with no new test, let him into the Charleston convention, and then outvote him, and nominate another. In that case, he will have no pretext for bolting the nomination, and will be as powerless as they can wish. On the other hand, if they push a Slave Code upon him, as a test, he will bolt at once, turn upon us, as in the case of Lecompton, and claim that all Northern men shall make common cause in electing him President as

[1] The anti-Douglas faction of Administration Democrats.

the best means of breaking down this Slave power. In that case, the democratic party go into a minority inevitably; and the struggle in the whole North will be, as it was in Illinois last summer and fall, whether the Republican party can maintain its identity, or be broken up to form the tail of Douglas's new kite. Some of our great Republican doctors will then have a splendid chance to swallow the pills they so eagerly prescribed for us last spring. Still I hope they will not swallow them; and although I do not feel that I owe the said doctors much, I will help them, to the best of my ability, to reject the said pills. The truth is, the Republican principle can in no wise live with Douglas; and it is arrant folly now, as it was last spring, to waste time, and scatter labor already performed, in dallying with him.

Your friend as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Jany 29. 1859

Hon: L. Trumbull

Dear Sir: I have just received your late speech, in pamphlet form, sent me by yourself. I had seen, and read it, before, in a newspaper; and I really think it is a capital one.

[1] See note on p. 66.

When you can find leisure, write me your present impressions of Douglas' movements. Our friends here from different parts of the State, in and out of the Legislature, are united, resolute, and determined; and I think it is almost certain that we shall be far better organized for 1860 than ever before.

We shall get no just apportionment; and the best we can do, (if we can even do that) is to prevent one being made worse than the present.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln.

To Mark W. Delahay [1]

Springfield, Ills. Feb. 1, 1859.

M. W. Delahay, Esq.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 22nd of January is received. I do expect to visit Council Bluffs some time between this and next summer; and I should be pleased if I could arrange it so as to meet a Republican mass convention at your city. Until the Legislature shall adjourn, no one can tell what will be the time of holding court in any county—a thing I must keep my eye on this year, as I lost pretty nearly all of the last. When I can speak more definitely I will write again. Let me say now, however, that I think the later in May the

[1] Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

better, unless you could defer until the last half of June, which would be the very best for me. I am obliged to be here the first half of June.

Yours, very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Feb. 3. 1859

Hon. L. Trumbull

My dear Sir: Yours of the 29th is received. The article [2] mentioned by you, prepared for the "Chicago Journal," I have not seen; nor do I wish to see it, though I heard of it a month, or more, ago. Any effort to put enmity between you and me, is as idle as the wind. I do not for a moment doubt that you, Judd, Cook, Palmer, and the Republicans generally, coming from the old Democratic ranks, were as sincerely anxious for my success in the late contest, as I myself, and the old Whig Republicans were. And I beg to assure you, beyond all possible cavil, that you can scarcely be more anxious to be sustained two years

[1] See note on p. 66.

[2] This was "an article said to have been prepared by Col. John Wentworth . . . the object of which evidently is to stir up bad feeling between Republicans who were formerly Whigs and those who were Democrats, and more especially to create prejudice against myself [Trumbull] and the Democratic portion of the party." The article had been refused publication but had been circulated privately.

hence than I am that you shall be so sustained. I can not conceive it possible for me to be a rival of yours, or to take sides against you in favor of any rival. Nor do I think there is much danger of the old Democratic and Whig elements of our party breaking into opposing factions. They certainly shall not, if I can prevent it.

I do not perceive that there is any feeling here about Cuba; and so I think, you can safely venture to act upon your own judgment upon any phase of it which may be presented.

The H. R. passed an apportionment bill yesterday — slightly better for [us] than the present in the Senate districts; but perfectly outrageous in the H. R. districts. It can be defeated without any revolutionary movement, unless the session be prolonged.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To P. H. Watson [1]

Chicago, March 2, 1859.

P. H. Watson, Esq.,

My dear Sir: At last I am here to give some attention to the suit of Haines and Haines vs. Talcott and others. I write chiefly now to get up a correspondence with you by which, if possible,

[1] Original owned by Mr. J. L. Smith, Ashtabula, Ohio.

the labor may be lightened, and the time shortened, in getting the case ready for trial. I have looked over your answer, and filed a Replication. By the Answer you lay a foundation to take, and, I suppose, intend to take a great deal of proof, all which must be by depositions. We will have to take some on our part to begin with, besides rebutting yours as well as we may be able. In all this it is desirable that we agree upon times and places, without the labor and delay of formal notices.

Besides this, it occurs to me that we might manage to get the opinion of the Court on our branch of the law, even if that be for you, it would save all the labor as to the other. I mean for us, with the consent of the Court, to first make the question of infringement, if our right be as it apparently is, on the face of the patent, have you infringed it? If this be decided for you, it is an end of the case. If for us, we can then enter upon the larger and more laborious plan of trying whether our apparent right is or is not a real one — whether it is substantially the same as are now on older things.

Consider this and write me, at Springfield, as soon as you conveniently can. Make any suggestions of your own with the same frankness as I have done.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Haden Keeling [1]

Springfield, March 3, 1859.

Haden Keeling, Esq.

Dear Sir: Yours of Feb. 28th 1859 is received. I do not think there is the least use of doing any more with the law suit. I not only do not think you are sure to gain it, but I do think you are sure to lose it. Therefore the sooner it ends the better.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Mark W. Delahay [2]

Springfield, March 4, 1859.

M. W. Delahay, Esq.

My dear Sir: — Your second letter in relation to my being with you at your Republican convention was duly received. It is not at hand just now, but I have the impression from it that the convention was to be at *Leavenworth;* but day before yesterday a friend handed me a letter from Judge M. F. Conway in which he also expresses a wish for me to come, and he fixes the place at *Ossawatomie.* This I believe is off of the river, and will require more time and labor to get to it. It will push me hard to get there without injury to my own

[1] Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

[2] Printed in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., v, 22. Original in the possession of the Illinois State Historical Society.

business; but I shall try to do it, though I am not yet quite certain I shall succeed.

I should like to know before coming, that while some of you wish me to come, there may not be others who would quite as lief I would stay away. Write me again.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To Thomas J. Pickett [1]

Springfield, March 5, 1859.

T. J. Pickett, Esq.

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 2nd inst. inviting me to deliver my lecture on "Inventions" in Rock Island, is at hand and I regret to be unable, from press of business to comply therewith.

In regard to the other matter you speak of, I beg that you will not give it a further mention. Seriously, I do not think I am fit for the Presidency.[2] Very truly,

Your Obt servt

A. Lincoln

[1] A newspaper editor of Rock Island, Ill. During the War he was a quartermaster's agent there. See letter of Apr. 20, 1863, to C. Truesdale in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, II, 326, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, VIII, 251. Transcript furnished by Mr. Pickett to Mr. Herndon, Nov. 29, 1866.

[2] Mr. Pickett wrote again urging Lincoln to run for the Presidency, and Lincoln replied in the same strain, Apr. 16, 1859. See *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, I, 533, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, V, 127.

To P. H. Watson

P. H. Watson, Esq.,

My dear Sir: Reaching here the 14th, I found yours of the 7th. I have not heard from Haines for some time, and until I do hear from him I can say nothing definite about taking evidence. When I hear from him I will write you.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To William A. Ross

Lincoln, Logan Co., Ills.
March 26, 1859.

Wm. A. Ross, Esq:

My dear Sir: Yours of the 18th was received a week ago. I would really be pleased with a publication substantially as you propose. But I would suggest a few variations from your plan. I would not include the Republican platform; because that would give the work a one-sided party cast, unless the democratic platform is also included.

I would not take all the speeches from the Press-Tribune; but I would take mine from that paper; and those of Judge Douglas from the Chicago Times. This would represent each of us, as reported by his own friends, and thus be mutual, and fair. I would take the speeches alone; rigidly excluding all comments of the newspapers. I would include the correspondence between Judge Douglas

and myself which led to the joint discussions. I would call the thing "Illinois political canvass of 1858"; and, as falling within the title, I would select and include half a dozen of the National Democratic speeches. Last autumn and winter I got up a scrap-book precisely on the plan I have stated. The parts stand in the order following —

My speech at Springfield, at the Republican convention, June 16, 1858.

Douglas' speech at Chicago, July 9, 1858

My speech at Chicago July 10, 1858.

Douglas' speech at Bloomington July 16, 1858

Douglas' speech at Springfield, July 17, 1858

My speech at Springfield July 17, 1858.

The correspondence which led to the joint discussions.

The joint discussions, in the order in which they occurred.

The National Democratic speeches, to come in after the others, in the order among themselves in which they were delivered.

In my own speeches I have corrected only a few small typographical errors. The other speeches I have not touched; but merely pasted them in from the papers in which they were reported.

Judge Douglas would have the right to correct typographical errors in his, if he desires; but I think the necessity, in his case, would be less than in mine; because he had two hired reporters travel-

ling with him, and probably revised their manuscripts before they went to press; while I had no reporter of my own, but depended on a very excellent one sent by the Press-Tribune; but who never wanted to show me his notes or manuscripts; so that the first I saw of my speeches after delivering them, was in the Press-Tribune precisely as they now stand.

My scrap book would be the best thing to print from; still, as it cost me a good deal of labor to get it up, and as I am very desirous to preserve the substance of it permanently, I would not let it go out of my control. If an arrangement could be made to print it in Springfield, under my own supervision, I would allow the scrap-book to be used, and would claim no share in any profit that could be made out of the publication.

I am here now, attending court; and seize a moment to answer yours, which I ought to have done sooner. Let me hear from you again.

Yours with respects

A. Lincoln

To Gustave Koerner

Springfield, April 11, 1859.

Hon. G. Koerner

My dear sir: Reaching home last night, I found your letter of the 4th. The meeting of the Central

Committee was at Bloomington, and not here. I was there attending court, and, in common with several other outsiders, one of whom was Judge Trumbull, was in conference with the Committee, to some extent. Judd privately mentioned the subject of which you write, to me, and requested me to prepare a resolution, which I did. When I brought in the resolution and read it to the committee, and others present, in an informal way, Judge Trumbull suggested that it would be better to select some act of our adversaries, rather than of our friends, upon which to base a protest against any distinction between native and naturalized citizens, as to the right of suffrage. This led to a little parley, I was called from the room, the thing passed from my mind, and I do not now know whether anything was done about it by the Committee. Judge Trumbull will be in Belleville when this reaches you, and he probably can tell you all about it. Whether anything was done or not, something must be, the next time the Committee meets, which I presume will be before long.

I am right glad the Committee put in operation our plan of organization which we started here last winter. They appointed Mr. Fell of Bloomington as Secretary.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To Salmon P. Chase [1]

Springfield, Ill.,
April 30th, 1859.

Hon. S. P. Chase,

Dear Sir: Reaching home yesterday I found your kind note of the 14th, informing me that you have given Mr. Whitney the appointment he desired; and also mentioning the present encouraging aspects of the Republican cause, and our Illinois canvass of last year.

I thank you for the appointment; allow me also to thank you as being one of the very few distinguished men whose sympathy we thought we had reason to expect.

Of course I would have preferred success; but failing in that, I have no regrets for having rejected all advice to the contrary, and resolutely made the struggle. Had we thrown ourselves into the arms of Douglas as re-electing him by our votes would have done, the Republican cause would have been annihilated in Illinois, and, as I think, demoralized and prostrated everywhere for years, if not forever. As it is, in the language of Benton, 'we are clean,' and the Republican star gradually rises higher everywhere.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

[1] Original in the archives of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. Printed in H. C. Whitney's *Life of Lincoln*, New York, 1908.

To Charles Ambos [1]

Spgfield Ills June 21, 1859.

Charles Ambos, Esq.,

Dear Sir: I have had two or three letters from you recently in regard to the claim of your Company against T. A. Barret. Mr. Barret has been telling me for the month past that there is some money at Christian Co. of the claim assigned to your Company as security which can be had when he and I can go there together to release a portion of the land involved; but I have been unable to get off at any time when I could [get] Barret to go with me.

I now think I will get off in a few days. It is so very much better to get the debt reduced by actual payments than to push forward in sole reliance upon the law, that I am loth to lose any opportunity of this sort.

I would now very gladly surrender the charge of the case to any one you would designate, without charging anything for the much trouble I have already had.

Yours &c

A. Lincoln

[1] See letters of July 27, 1859, to Samuel Galloway in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, I, 536, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, V, 134.

To Nathan Sargent [1]

Springfield, Ill.,
June 23, 1859.

Hon. Nathan Sargent.

My dear Sir: Your very acceptable letter of the 13th was duly received. Of course I would be pleased to see all the elements of opposition united for the approaching contest of 1860; but I confess I have not much hope of seeing it. You state a platform for such union in these words "*Opposition to the opening of the Slave-trade; and eternal hostility to the rotten democracy.*" You add, by way of comment "I say, if the republicans would be content with this, there will be no obstacle to a union of the *opposition.* But this should be distinctly understood, before Southern men are asked to join them in a National convention." Well, I say such a platform, unanimously adopted by a National convention, with two of the best men living placed upon it as candidates, would probably carry Maryland, and would certainly not carry a single other State. It would gain nothing in the South, and lose everything in the North. Mr. Goggin has just been beaten in

[1] Judge Sargent had been a prominent member of the Whig Party, to which he had given its name. He was afterwards Commissioner of Customs under Lincoln, Johnson, and Grant. Reprinted from *Harper's Weekly*, Feb. 13, 1909, where it was printed in an article by Henry Oldys.

Virginia on just such a platform. Last year the Republicans of Illinois cast 125,000 votes; on such a platform as yours they can not cast as many as 50,000. You could not help perceiving this, if you would but reflect that the republican party is utterly powerless everywhere, if it will, by any means, drive from it all those who came to it from the democracy for the sole object of preventing the spread and nationalization of slavery. Whenever this object is waived by the organization, they will drop the organization; and the organization itself will dissolve into thin air. Your platform proposes to allow the spread and nationalization of slavery to proceed without let or hindrance, save only that it shall not receive supplies directly from Africa. Surely you do not seriously believe the Republicans can come to any such terms.

From the passage of the Nebraska bill up to date, the Southern opposition have constantly sought to gain an advantage over the rotten democracy, by running ahead of them in extreme opposition to, and vilification and misrepresentation of black republicans. It will be a good deal, if we fail to remember this in malice, (as I hope we shall fail to remember it;) but it is altogether too much to ask us to try to stand with them on the platform which has proved altogether insufficient to sustain them alone. If the rotten democracy shall be beaten in 1860, it has to be done by the North; no human

invention can deprive them of the South. I do not deny that there are as good men in the South as the North; and I guess we will elect one of them if he will allow us to do so on Republican ground. I think there can be no other ground of union. For my single self I would be willing to risk some Southern man without a platform; but I am satisfied that is not the case with the Republican party generally.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln

To the Editor of the Central Transcript [1]

Springfield, July 3, 1859.

Editor of the Central Transcript.

Dear Sir: Your paper of the 1st which I presume you sent me is received. Put me on your subscription list, and I will pay at fall court.

I cut a slip from the number and return it with a word of comment. I shall heartily support for Governor whoever shall be nominated by a Republican state convention; and no one more heartily than any one of the five you name. But is not the fling you make at our Northern brethren both unjust to them, and dangerous to our cause? You open by saying, "A strong controversy is going on between the Chicago papers as to who shall

[1] Found in Mr. Herndon's papers.

be the next Republican nominee for Governor." I was unaware of this. I have not seen in any Chicago paper, a man named or pointed to, whom such paper do declare for as its candidate for Governor. Have you? Again, ought you to say, as you do, that "the matter will be entirely controlled by the Central and Southern portions of the state"? Surely, on reflection, you will agree that the matter must be controlled, in due proportion, by all parts of the state. Again, you say, "The defeat of Mr. Lincoln may be attributed to the course pursued by these Northerners in putting none but the most ultra men on the track, as candidates for the more important state and Federal offices &c." This statement is indeed strange. The Republican party, since its organization in Illinois, has gone through two general elections — in 1856 and 1858; and "these Northerners" have not even had a single candidate for a state office, or a Federal office commensurate with the state, either residing within their section, or holding their supposed ultra views. In 1856 they put on the track, Bissell of Belleville for Governor, Hatch of Pike Co. for secretary of state, Dubois, of Lawrence Co. for Auditor, Miller of Bloomington for Treasurer, etc. . . .

Another very marked fact is that "these Northerners," in the two past elections, gave nearly all the votes that carried them; and that the next elec-

tion will be lost unless "these Northerners" do the same thing again. Your fling about men entangled with the "Matteson Robbery" as you express it, — and were indicted for stealing niggers and mail bags, I think is unjust and impolitic. Why manufacture slang to be used against us by our enemies? The world knows who are alluded to by the mention of stealing niggers and mail bags. . . . Have candidates by agreement, and not by force, help one another instead of trying to hurt one another.

I do not write this for publication, and would not have written at all, had I expected a chance to see and talk with you soon.

Yours very truly, A. Lincoln.

To D. J. Powers [1]

Springfield, Ills. Aug. 18, 1859.

D. J. Powers, Esq.,

Dear Sir: — Reaching home after an absence [of] nine days I have yours of the 12th.

I have also received that of July 27; and, to be plain, I dislike to decline the honor you tendered me. Two difficulties were in the way — first, I could not well spare the time from the Courts; and secondly, I have no address of the sort prepared, and could scarcely spare the time to prepare one; and I was waiting, before answering you, to

[1] Original owned by Mr. Frederick M. Steele, Highland Park, Ill.

determine whether the difficulties could be surmounted. I will write you definitely on the 1st day of September, if you can safely delay so long.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln

To Peter Zinn [1]

Springfield, Ills., Sept. 6, 1859.

Peter Zinn, Esq.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 2nd in relation to my appearing at Cincinnati in behalf of the Opposition is received. I already had a similar letter from Mr. W. J. Bascom, Secretary of the Republican State Central Committee at Columbus, which I answer to-day. You are in correspondence with him, and will learn all from him. I shall try to speak at Columbus and Cincinnati, but cannot do more.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Mark W. Delahay [2]

Springfield, October 17, 1859.

Dear Delahay: Your letter requesting me to drop a line in your favor to Gen. Lane was duly received. I have thought it over, and concluded it is not the

[1] Copy furnished by Mr. Judd Stewart.

[2] This letter and the following are from Horace White's *Life of Lyman Trumbull*, Boston, 1913, p. 101. Originals in the collection of Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

best way. Any open attempt on my part would injure you; and if the object merely be to assure Gen. Lane of my friendship for you, show him the letter herewith enclosed. I never saw him, or corresponded with him; so that a letter directly from me to him, would run a great hazard of doing harm to both you and me.

As to the pecuniary matter, about which you formerly wrote me, I again appealed to our friend Turner by letter, but he never answered. I can but repeat to you that I am so pressed myself, as to be unable to assist you, unless I could get it from him.

Yours as ever,

(Enclosure) A. Lincoln.

To Mark W. Delahay [1]

Springfield, October 17, 1859.

M. W. Delahay, Esq.,

My Dear Sir: I hear your name mentioned for one of the seats in the U.S. Senate from your new state. I certainly would be gratified with your success; and if there was any proper way for me to give you a lift, I would certainly do it. But, as it is, I can only wish you well. It would be improper for me to interfere; and if I were to attempt it, it would do you harm.

Your friend, as ever, A. Lincoln

P.S. Is not the election news glorious?

[1] Enclosed with the preceding letter.

To William Dungy [1]

Springfield, November 2, 1859.

Wm. Dungy, Esq.:

Dear Sir:—Yours of October 27 is received. When a mortgage is given to secure two notes, and one of the notes is sold and assigned, if the mortgaged premises are only sufficient to pay one note, the one assigned will take it all. Also, an execution, from a judgement on the assigned note, may take it all; it being the same thing in substance. There is redemption on execution sales from the United States Court just as from any other Court.

You did not mention the name of plaintiff or defendant in the suit, and so I can tell nothing about it as to sales, bids, etc. Write again,

Yours, etc.,

A. Lincoln.

To P. Quinn Harrison [2]

Springfield, Nov. 3, 1859.

P. Quinn Harrison,

Dear Sir: I have no reason to doubt that our friends are doing the best they can about the election.

[1] First printed in Joseph H. Barrett's *Abraham Lincoln and his Presidency*, I, 208; reprinted in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., V, 113.

[2] Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

Still, you can do some more if you will. A young man before the enemy has learned to watch him, can do more than any other. Pitch in and try. Palmer is good and true, and deserves the best vote we can give him. If you can make your precinct 20 votes better than it was last we probably shall redeem the county. Try.

Yours Truly,

A. Lincoln

To Jesse A. Pickerel [1]

Springfield, Nov. 3, 1859.

Dear Jesse:—I am never done asking for favors. I shall be much obliged if you and William and your sons will do what you can to get as good a vote for Palmer as possible. He is a good and true man; and we possibly may elect him. Get all our voters out you can.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [2]

Springfield, Nov. 28, 1859

Hon. L. Trumbull.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 23rd is received. I agree with you entirely about the contemplated

[1] Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

[2] See note on p. 66.

election of Forney.[1] Nothing could be more short-sighted than to place so strong a man as Forney in position to keep Douglas on foot. I know nothing of Forney personally; but I would put no man in position to help our enemies in the point of our hardest strain.

There is nothing new here. I have written merely to give my view about this Forney business.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To John J. Crittenden [2]

December 22, 1859.

Address, Springfield, Illinois.

Hon. J. J. Crittenden,
U.S. Senate.

My Dear Sir: I should not care to be a candidate of a party having as its only platform "The Constitution, the Union and the enforcement of the laws." "The Constitution," *as we understand it*, has been the shibboleth of every party or malcon-

[1] John W. Forney strenuously supported Douglas in his opposition to the Kansas policy of President Buchanan, was clerk of the National House of Representatives in 1851–55, and again in 1859. He became an ardent Republican and was Secretary of the Senate in 1861–68.

[2] United States Senator from Kentucky. From a pamphlet entitled *Some Lincoln Correspondence with Southern Leaders before the Outbreak of the Civil War, from the Collection of Judd Stewart*, 1909. The letter was there printed from a copy.

tent from the Hartford Convention that wanted to secede from slave territory and the "Blue Light" burners who were in British sympathy in 1812, to John C. Calhoun and South Carolina Nullification.

The Union, we intend to keep, and loyal states will not let disloyal ones break it. Its constitution and laws made in pursuance thereof must and shall remain, "the supreme law of the land." The enforcement of what laws? If they are those which give the use of jails & domestic police for masters seeking "fugitives from labor" that means war in the North. No law is stronger than is the public sentiment where it is to be enforced. Free speech and discussion and immunity from whip & tar and feathers, seem implied by the guarantee to each state of "a republican form of government." Try Henry Clay's "gradual emancipation" scheme now in Kentucky, or to circulate W. L. Garrison's *Liberator* where most men are salivated by the excessive use of the Charleston *Mercury*. Father told a story of a man in your parts required to give a warrantee bill of sale with a horse. He wrote, "I warrant him sound in skin and skeleton and without faults or faculties." That is more than I can say of an unmeaning platform. Compromises of principles break of their own weight.

Yours very respectfully

A. Lincoln

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Dec. 25, 1859

Hon. Lyman Trumbull

Dear Sir: About the 15th by direction of Mr. Judd, I sent a letter and inclosures to him, addressed to your care; and I have not yet learned whether he received it.

I have carefully read your speech; and I judge that, by the interruptions, it came out a much better speech than you expected to make when you began. It really is an excellent one, many of the points being most admirably made.

I was in the inside of the Post-Office last evening when a mail came bringing a considerable number of your documents; and the Post-Master said to me "These will be put in the boxes, and half will never be called for. If Trumbull would send them to me I would distribute a hundred to where he will get ten distributed this way."

I said, "Shall I write this to Trumbull?" He replied, "If you choose you may." I believe he was sincere; but you will judge of that for yourself.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

[1] See note on p. 66.

To Fernando Jones

Springfield Jan. 15, 1860.

Fernando Jones, Esq.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 10th was received two or three days ago; and being much engaged, I have postponed attending to it until now.

Our Republican friend, J. W. Fell,[1] of Bloomington, Illinois, can furnish you the material for a brief sketch of my history, if it be desired.

I shall be happy to receive a letter from you at any time.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Alexander H. Stephens[2]

Springfield, Illinois, 19 January, 1860.

Duplicated for Senator Jno. J. Crittenden

Honorable A. H. Stephens

Dear Sir: Your letter and one from Hon. J. J. Crittenden, reached me at the same time. He wants a new party on the platform of "The Union, the constitution and the enforcement of the Laws"

[1] Mr. Fell was one of the first to urge Lincoln to seek the Republican nomination for President.

[2] From a pamphlet entitled *Some Lincoln Correspondence with Southern Leaders before the Outbreak of the Civil War, from the Collection of Judd Stewart*, 1909. The letter was there printed from a copy certified as correct by Mr. Stephens.

— not construed. You from your retirement at *Liberty Hall* complain of the bad faith of many in the free states who refuse to return fugitives from labor, as agreed in the compromise of 1850, 1854: but I infer that you agree with Judge Douglas that the territories are to be left to "form and regulate their own domestic institutions subject only to the Constitution of the United States." I remember the letter of the Whigs in Congress in 1852 which defeated Gen'l Winfield Scott on the ground that he did not present your view of States' rights. Also that your letter destroyed the Whig party and it is said that you and Toombs voted for Webster after he was dead. You are still "harping" on "my daughter" and you supported Zach Taylor as a sound Kentuckian. If I understand you, here are two constructions: Crittenden being willing for the Henry Clay gradual emancipation, I think. The rights of local self-government as defined by Webster, also including state determination of citizenship, are clearly in the Constitution. When we were both Members of the Young-Indian Club in Washington you then argued for paramount state Sovereignty going very nearly to the extreme of state *nullification* of Federal laws with John C. Calhoun: and of secession at will with Robert Toombs. The Colonies were subject up to July 4, 1776, and had no recognized independence until they had won it in 1783: but the only time they

ever had the shadows of separate sovereignty was in the two years before they were compelled to the articles of Confederation July 9, 1778. They fought England for seven years for the right to club together but when were they independent of each other? Let me say right here that only unanimous consent of all of the states can dissolve this Union. We will not secede and you shall not. Let me show you what I think of the reserved rights of the states as declared in the articles of Confederation and in the Constitution and so called Jeffersonian amendments; suppose that I sold a farm here in Illinois with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances to the same in any wise belonging or appertaining, signed, sealed and delivered: I have now sold my land. Will it at all change the contract if I go to the clerk's office and add a post script to the record; that all rights not therein conveyed I reserve to myself and my children? The colonies, by the Declaration of July 4, 1776, did not get nationality, for they were leagued to fight for it. By the articles of Confederation of July 9, 1778, under stress and peril of failure without union, a government was created to which the states ceded certain powers of nationality, especially in the command of the army and navy, as yet supported by the states. Geo. Washington was Commander in Chief and congress was advisory agent of the states, commending but not enacting laws

for the thirteen, until empowered. This proved insufficient and the peril of failure was great as ever, at home and abroad. Alexander Hamilton and others of New York were first to urge that a government with no revenues, except state grants, could have no credit at home or abroad. Three years later Virginia led the states in urging concessions of power, and then by twelve states — Rhode Island objecting — was framed our original Constitution of 1787 fully three and a half years after the peace that sealed our United national Independence. The post-script erroneously all attributed to Thomas Jefferson, came in three installments. The first ten (10) proposed in the first session of the Congress of the United States 25th September 1789 were ratified by the constitutional number of states 15 December 1791, New Jersey 20 November 1789 and Virginia 15 December 1791, eleven states only, Georgia and Connecticut dissenting. The eleventh amendment, proposed 5 March 1794, Third Congress, was then declared duly adopted by a President's message of 8 January, 1798, eleven states consenting & finally all consenting. The twelfth amendment was proposed in congress 12 December 1803 and declared ratified through the secretary of state 25 September 1804 by the constitutional quorum of states. The first ten articles are the *Bill of Rights* and each set of amendments had a preface. The eleventh

limited the Federal Judiciary. The twelfth regulated general elections for President and Vice-President of the United States. Do any or all of these retract the fee-simple grant of great and permanent powers to the Federal Government? There are three great Departments: I, the President commanding the Army and Navy and with a veto upon a plurality of Congress. II, the Congress coining all moneys; collecting all imposts on imports, regulating all interstate as all external commerce; making all subordinate Federal Judiciary as appointed of the President with power to have a ten mile square seat and to take grants or to buy for Forts, Dock yards and Arsenals; having post offices and post roads under laws executed by the President, and to frame supreme constitutional laws and set up courts and Judges. III, The supreme court set as arbiter and expounder of the constitution and of all differences of states and with states or of them with the Federation; no loop hole left for nullification, and none for secession, — because the right of peaceable assembly and of petition and by article Fifth of the Constitution, the right of amendment, is the Constitutional substitute for revolution. Here is our *Magna Carta* not *wrested* by Barons from King John, but the free gift of states to the nation they create and in the very amendments harped upon by states rights men are proposed by the Federal congress and approved

by Presidents, to make the liberties of the Republic of the West forever sure. All of the States' Rights which they wished to retain are now and forever retained in the Union, including slavery; and so I have sworn loyalty to this constitutional Union, and for it let me live or let me die. But you say that slavery is the corner stone of the south and if separated, would be that of a new Republic; God forbid. When a boy I went to New Orleans on a flat boat and there I saw slavery and slave markets as I have never seen them in Kentucky, and I heard worse of the Red River plantations. I hoped and prayed that the gradual emancipation plan of Henry Clay or the Liberian colonization of John Q. Adams might lead to its extinction in the United States. Geo. Washington, the Massachusetts Adams, Presidents James Madison and Monroe, Benj. Franklin opposed its extension into the territories before I did. The ordinance of 1784, 1787 for the North West territory ceded by Virginia, was written by Thomas Jefferson and signed only by slave-holders and that prohibited forever slavery, or involuntary servitude not imposed for crime. Your grandfather, Captain Stephens, suffered at Valley Forge and bled at Brandywine for the principles of the men of 1776–1783. Your Uncle, Justice Grier of the Supreme Bench has recently expounded the Supreme Law as I honestly accept it. Senator Crittenden complains that

by the device of party conventions and nominations of candidates for Presidents and Vice-Presidents the Federal plan of separate and unbiased Electoral Colleges is taken away and the popular feature of elections is restored to the people. I reckon they wanted it so. What are you agoing to do about it? To abolish conventions you must abolish candidates. In your Oxford College orations, you say "I love the Union and revere its memories; I rejoice in all its achievements in arts, in letters and in arms." If it is a good thing, why not just keep it and say no more about it?

I am not in favor of a party of Union, constitution and law to suit Mr. Bell or Mr. Everett and be construed variously in as many sections as there are states.

This is the longest letter I ever dictated or wrote. But this is to only you alone, not to the public.

Your truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Gustave Koerner

Springfield, Jan 20, 1860.

Hon. G. Koerner,

My dear Sir: Yesterday the Judge decided the demurrer against us on all the points. On looking over your memorandum left with me, I find you desired me to have the case set for trial as late as

I can. But really I find I have no power to set a time for the trial. The opposite party is not here, in person or by counsel, and the Judge, properly enough, refuses to make a stipulation for the absent party. He says he understands, however, that the case is not to come up before the 24th.

I have telegraphed you to-day; but if this reaches you before you leave, you might see Jewett at St. Louis and make an arrangement.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Abraham Jonas [1]

Springfield, Feb. 4, 1860

Hon. A. Jonas.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 3rd inquiring how you can get a copy of the debates now being published in Ohio is received. As you are one of my most valued friends, and have complimented me by the expression of a wish for the book, I propose doing myself the honor of presenting you with one, as soon as I can. By the arrangement our Ohio friends have made with the publishers, I am to have one hundred copies gratis. When I shall receive them I will send you one by express. I understand they will not be out before March and I probably

[1] An English Jew settled at Quincy, Ill., and a political friend of Lincoln. See p. 241.

shall be absent about that time, so that you must not be disappointed if you do not receive yours before about the middle of the month.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln

To Henry E. Dummer

February 8, 1860.

Dear Mr. Dummer: I have examined and considered the general proposition in your letter accompanying copy of contract in relation to Lard tubs, apparatus &c., and in my opinion the Messrs H. C. Gadsen and Co. will, as a general proposition, have a right to continue to use the Tubs, apparatus &c which they have.

The reason why I say "as a general proposition" is that I fear the phraseology of the contract deprives them of it.

The language of the contract is so explicit and so often repeated that the right to use "shall be until the expiration of patent" that I fear it will be held that by the contract they cannot have the benefit of the enterprise.

Much might be said on the other side and I only mean to say that in my mind the question on the phraseology of the contract is doubtful and perhaps is worth trying.

Yours as ever, A. Lincoln.

To O. P. Hall and I (or J.) H. Fullininder

Springfield Feb. 14, 1860.

Messrs. O. P. Hall &
I or J. H. Fullininder.

Gentlemen: Your letter in which, among other things, you ask what I meant when I said this "Union could not stand half slave and half free"; and also what I meant when I said "a house divided against itself could not stand" is received and I very cheerfully answer it as plainly as I may be able. You misquote, to some material extent, what I did say, which induces me to think you have not very carefully read the speech in which the expressions occur which puzzle you to understand. For this reason and because the language I used is as plain as I can make it, I now quote at length the whole paragraph in which the expressions which puzzle you occur. It is as follows: "We are now far into the fifth year since a policy was initiated with the avowed object and confident promise of putting an end to slavery agitation. Under the operation of that policy that agitation has not only not ceased, but constantly augmented. I believe it will not cease until a crisis shall have been reached, and passed. A house divided against itself can not stand. I believe this government can not endure *permanently*, half slave, and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved: I do not expect the

house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will avert the further spread of it and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward till it will become alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new, North as well as South."

That is the whole paragraph; and it puzzles me to make my meaning plainer. Look over it carefully, and conclude I meant all I said, and did not mean any thing I did not say, and you will have my meaning. Douglas attacked me upon this, saying it was a declaration of war between the slave and the free states. You will perceive, I said no such thing, and I assure you I thought of no such thing. If I had said I believe the Government cannot last always half slave and half free, would you understand it any better than you do? Endure permanently and last always have exactly the same meaning. If you, or if you will state to me some meaning which you suppose I had, I can and will instantly tell you whether that was my meaning.

Your very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Beers & Mansfield

Springfield, Ills.,
March 14, 1860

Mess. Beers and Mansfield.

Gentlemen: Your request to take a photographic likeness of me, while in your city, was duly received; but at a time when my arrangements were so made that I could not call upon you before leaving. I would have written sooner, but the matter passed out of my mind; and is now recalled by the sight of your note. I beg you will believe me guilty of no intentional disrespect.

Very Respectfully,

A. Lincoln

To Mark W. Delahay [1]

Springfield, Ills.
Mar. 16, 1860.

Dear Delahay: I have just returned from the East. Before leaving I received your letter of Feb. 6; and on my return I find those of the 17th and 19th with Gen'l Lane's note inclosed in one of them. I sincerely wish you could be elected one of the first Senators from Kansas; but how to help you I do not know. If it were permissible for me

[1] Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik. An extract was published in *Writings*, Lapsley, v, 178, with name suppressed.

to interfere, I am not personally acquainted with a single member of your Legislature. If my known friendship for you could be of any advantage, that friendship was abundantly manifested by me last December while in Kansas. If any member had written me, as you say some have Trumbull, I would very readily answer him. I shall write Trumbull at this sitting.

I understood, while in Kansas, that the State Legislature will not meet until the State is admitted. Was that the right understanding?

As to your kind wishes for myself, allow me to say I can not enter the ring on the money basis — first, because, in the main, it is wrong; and secondly, I have not, and can not get, the money. I say, in the main, the use of money is wrong; but for certain objects, in a political contest, the use of some, is both right and indispensable. With me as with yourself, this long struggle has been one of great pecuniary loss. I now distinctly say this: If you shall be appointed a delegate to Chicago, I will furnish one hundred dollars to bear the expenses of the trip.

Present my respects to Gen'l Lane; and say to him, I shall be pleased to hear from him at any time.

Your friend, as ever,

A. Lincoln

P.S. I have not yet taken the newspaper slip to

the Journal. I shall do that tomorrow, and then send you the paper as requested.

A. L.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Mar. 16, 1860

Hon: L. Trumbull

My dear Sir: When I first saw by the despatches that Douglas had run from the Senate while you were speaking I did not quite understand it; but seeing by the report that you were cramming down his throat that infernal stereotyped lie of his about "negro equality" the thing became plain.

Another matter. Our friend Delahay wants to be one of the Senators from Kansas. Certainly it is not for outsiders to obtrude their interference. Delahay has suffered a great deal in our cause, and been very faithful to it, as I understand. He writes me that some of the members of the Kansas Legislature have written you in a way that your simple answer might help him. I wish you would consider whether you can not assist him that far, without impropriety. I know it is a delicate matter; and I do not wish to press you beyond your own judgement.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln.

[1] See note on p. 66.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Chicago, March 26, 1860

Hon: L. Trumbull

My dear Sir: They are having a desperate struggle in Connecticut; [2] and it would both please, and help our friends there, if you could be with them in the last days of the fight. Having been there, I know they are proud of you as a son of their own soil, and would be moved to greater exertion by your presence among them.

Can you not go? Telegraph them, and go right along. The fiendish attempt now being made upon Connecticut, must not be allowed to succeed.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To Ward H. Lamon

Chicago, March 28, 1860

Mr. W. H. Lamon.

My dear Sir: Yours about motions to quash the indictment was received yesterday. I think I had no authority but the statute when I wrote the indictment — in fact I remember but little about it. I think yet there is no necessity for setting out the

[1] See note on p. 66.

[2] After his speech at the Cooper Institute, February 27, 1860, Lincoln spent several days in Connecticut.

letter *in haec verba*. Our statute as I think releases the high degree of technical certainty formerly required.

I am so busy with our case on trial here that I cannot examine authorities here as fully as you can there. If after all the indictment shall be quashed it will prove that my forte is as a statesman rather than a prosecutor.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln

To R. M. Corwine [1]

Springfield, Ill., April 6th, 1860.

Hon. R. M. Corwine.

My Dear Sir—Reaching home yesterday after an absence of more than two weeks, I found your letter of the 24th of March. Remembering that when not a very great man begins to be mentioned for a very great position, his head is very likely to be a little turned, I concluded I am not the fittest person to answer the questions you ask. Making due allowance for this, I think Mr. Seward is the very best candidate we could have for the North of Illinois, and the very *worst* for the South of it. The estimate of Gov. Chase here is neither better nor

[1] A delegate from Ohio to the Chicago Convention in 1860. During the War for the Union he served on the staff of General Frémont.

worse than that of Seward, except that he is a newer man. They are regarded as being almost the same, seniority giving Seward the inside track. Mr. Bates, I think, would be the best man for the South of our State, and the worst for the North of it. If Judge McLean[1] was fifteen, or even ten years younger, I think he would be stronger than either, in our state, taken as a whole; but his great age, and the recollection of the deaths of Harrison and Taylor have, so far, prevented his being much spoken of here.

I really believe we can carry the state for either of them, or for any one who may be nominated; but doubtless it would be easier to do it with some than with others.

I feel myself disqualified to speak of myself in this matter. I feel this letter will be of little value to you; but I can make it no better, under the circumstances. Let it be strictly confidential, not that there is any thing really objectionable in it, but because it might be misconstrued.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] John McLean, of Ohio, United States Supreme Court Justice. He received twelve votes on the first ballot in the convention and five on the third and last ballot.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Ills. April 7, 1860

Hon: L. Trumbull

My dear Sir: Reaching home from Chicago, where I have been engaged two weeks in the trial of a lawsuit, I found your letter of March 26th.

Of course you can do no better for Delahay than you promise. I am trying to keep out of the contest among our friends for the Gubernatorial nomination; but from what I hear, the result is in considerable doubt.

We have just had a clear party victory in our City election; and our friends are more encouraged, and our enemies more cowed by it, than by anything since the organization of the Republican party. Last year we carried the city; but we did it, not by our own strength, but by an open feud among our enemies. This year their feud was healed; and we beat them fairly by main strength.

I can scarcely give an opinion as to what effect a nomination of Judge McLean, by the Union Convention, would have. I do not believe he would accept it; and if he did, that fact alone, I think, would shut him out of the Chicago Convention. If he were ten years younger he would be our best candidate.

Yours as ever A. Lincoln

[1] See note on p. 66.

To John M. Carson

Springfield, April 7, 1860

John M. Carson, Esq.,
Chairman of the Committee of Lectures
Of the Harrison Literary Institute.

Dear Sir: Yours of March 14 addressed to me at Chicago seeking to arrange with me to lecture for the Harrison Literary Institute has been received. I regret that I cannot make such an arrangement. I am not a professional lecturer. Have never got up but one lecture, and that I think rather a poor one. Besides, what time I can spare from my own business this season I shall be compelled to give to politics.

Respectfully yours,

A. Lincoln.

To Mark W. Delahay [1]

Springfield, Ills.
April 14, 1860.

M. W. Delahay,

My dear Sir: Reaching home last night I find your letter of the 7th. You know I was in New England. Some of the acquaintances I made while there, write me since the elections that the close

[1] Published in the *Works* with name suppressed (*Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, I, 633, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, VI, 10).

votes in Conn. and the quasi defeat in R.I. are a drawback upon the prospects of Gov. Seward; and Trumbull writes Dubois to the same effect. Do not mention this as coming from me. Both those states are safe enough for us in the fall. I see by the dispatches that since you wrote, Kansas has appointed Delegates and instructed them for Seward. Don't stir them up to anger, but come along to the convention, and I will do as I said about expenses.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, April 29, 1860

Hon: L. Trumbull:

My dear Sir: Yours of the 24th was duly received; and I have postponed answering it, hoping by the result at Charleston, to know who is to lead our adversaries, before writing. But Charleston hangs fire, and I wait no longer.

As you request, I will be entirely frank. The taste *is* in my mouth a little; and this, no doubt, disqualifies me, to some extent, to form correct opinions. You may confidently rely, however, that by no advice or consent of mine, shall my pretentions be pressed to the point of endangering our common cause.

[1] See note on p. 66.

Now, as to my opinions about the chances of others in Illinois. I think neither Seward nor Bates can carry Illinois if Douglas shall be on the track; and that either of them can, if he shall not be. I rather think McLean could carry it with D. on or off; in other words, I think McLean is stronger in Illinois, taking all sections of it, than either S. or B; and I think S. the weakest of the three. I hear no objection to Mr. McLean, except his age; but that objection seems to occur to every one; and it is possible it might leave him no stronger than the others. By the way, if we should nominate him, how would we save to ourselves the chance of filling his vacancy in the Court? Have him hold on up to the moment of his inauguration? Would that course be no draw-back upon us in the canvass?

Recurring to Illinois, we want something here quite as much as, and which is harder to get than, the electoral vote — the Legislature. And it is exactly in this point that Seward's nomination would be hard upon us. Suppose he should gain us a thousand votes in Winnebago, it would not compensate for the loss of fifty in Edgar.

A word now for your own special benefit. You better write no letters which can possibly be distorted into opposition, or quasi opposition to me. There are men on the constant watch for such things out of which to prejudice my peculiar friends against you.

While I have no more suspicion of you than I have of my best friend living, I am kept in a constant struggle against suggestions of this sort. I have hesitated some to write this paragraph, lest you should suspect I do it for my own benefit, and not for yours; but on reflection I conclude you will not suspect me.

Let no eye but your own see this — not that there is anything wrong, or even ungenerous, in it; but it would be misconstrued.

Your friend as ever A. Lincoln

To Lyman Trumbull[1]

Private

Springfield, May 1, 1860

Hon: L. Trumbull

Dear Sir: In my last letter to you I believe I said I thought Mr. Seward would be weaker in Illinois than Mr. Bates. I write this to qualify the opinion so far as to say I think S. weaker than B. in our close Legislative districts; but probably not weaker taking the whole State over.

We now understand that Douglas will be nominated to-day by what is left of the Charleston Convention.

All parties here dislike it. Republicans and Danites,[2] that he should be nominated at all; and

[1] See note on p. 66. [2] See note on p. 97.

Doug. Dem's that he should not be nominated by an undivided Convention.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To C. M. Allen [1]

Springfield, Ills., May 1, 1860

Hon: C. M. Allen:

My dear Sir: Your very kind letter of the 27th, was received yesterday. This writing being early in the morning, Douglas is not yet nominated; but we suppose he certainly will be before sun-set today, a few of the smaller Southern states having seceded from the convention — just enough to permit his nomination, and not enough to hurt him much at the election. This puts the case in the hardest shape for us. But fight we must; and conquer we shall, in the end.

Our friend Dubois, and Judge David Davis, of Bloomington, one or both, will meet you at Chicago, on the 12th.

If you let Usher [2] and Griswold of Terre Haute know, I think they will co-operate with you.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] Of Vincennes, Ind. Original owned by Mr. Irving Swan Brown, of Worcester, Mass.

[2] John P. Usher, a lawyer friend of Lincoln's and afterwards his Secretary of the Interior.

To R. M. Corwine

Private

Springfield, Ill., May 2, 1860.

Hon. R. M. Corwine.

Dear Sir: — Yours of the 30th ult. is just received. After what you have said, it is perhaps proper I should post you, so far as I am able, as to the "lay of the land." First I think the Illinois delegation will be unanimous for me at the start; and no other delegation will. A few individuals in other delegations would like to go for me at the start, but may be restrained by their colleagues. It is represented to me by men who ought to know, that the whole of Indiana might not be difficult to get. You know how it is in Ohio. I am certainly not the first choice there; and yet I have not heard that anyone makes any positive objection to me. It is just so everywhere as far as I can perceive. Everywhere, except here in Illinois and possibly Indiana, one or another is preferred to me, but there is no positive objection. This is the ground as it now appears. I believe you personally know C. M. Allen of Vincennes, Indiana. He is a delegate and has notified me that the entire Indiana delegation will be in Chicago the same day you name, Saturday, the 12th. My friends, Jesse K. Dubois, our auditor, and Judge David Davis, will probably be there

[*Facsimile*]

Springfield, Ills. May 1. 1860

Hon: C. M. Allen

My dear Sir

Your very kind letter of the 27th was received yesterday. This writing being early in the morning Douglas is not yet nominated; but we suppose he certainly will be before sun set to-day, a few of the so-called Southern states having seceded from the convention — just enough to permit his nomination and not enough to hurt him much at the election — This puts the case in the hardest shape for us — But fight we must; and conquer we shall in the end —

Our friend Dubois, and Judge David Davis, of Bloomington one or both, will meet you at Chicago on the 12th

If you let Usher & Griswold of Terre Haute know, I think they will co-operate with you.

Yours very truly A. Lincoln

ready to confer with friends from other States. Let me hear from you again when anything occurs.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To James Grant Wilson

Springfield, May 2, 1860.

Mr. James G. Wilson.

My Dear Friend: I am greatly obliged for the volume of your friend Fitz Greene Halleck's poems. Many a month has passed since I have met with anything more admirable than his beautiful lines on Burns. With Alnwick Castle, Marco Bozzaris, and Red Jacket, I am also much pleased.

It is wonderful that you should have seen and known a sister of Robert Burns. You must tell me something about her when we meet again.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, May 26, 1860

Hon: L. Trumbull:

My dear Sir: I have received three letters from you since the nomination, for all which I sincerely thank you. As you say, if we can not get our State up now, I do not see when we can.

[1] See note on p. 66.

The nominations start well here, and everywhere else, so far as I have heard. We may have a backset yet. Give my respects to the Republican Senators; and especially to Mr. Hamlin, Mr. Seward, Gen. Cameron, and Mr. Wade. Also to your good wife.

Write again; and do not write so short letters as I do.

Your friend, as ever

A. Lincoln

To William C. Baker

Springfield, May 28, 1860.

Wm. C. Baker,

You request an autograph and here it is.

A. Lincoln

To Leonard Swett

Springfield, Ills. May 30, 1860.

Hon. L. Swett.

My dear Sir: Your letter written to go to New York is long, but substantially right I believe. You heard Weed conversed with me, and you now have Putnam's letters. It can not have failed to strike you that these men ask for just the same thing — fairness and fairness only. This so far as in my power, they and all others shall have. If this suggests any modification of or addition to your letter

make it accordingly. Burn this; not that there is anything wrong in it, but because it is best not to be known that I wrote at all.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln

To Charles C. Nott [1]

Springfield, Ills,
May 31, 1860.

Charles C. Nott, Esq.

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 23rd, accompanied by a copy of the speech delivered by me at the Cooper Institute, and upon which you have made some notes for emendations, was received some days ago. Of course I would not object to, but would be pleased rather, with a more perfect edition of that speech.

I did not preserve memoranda of my investigations; and I could not now re-examine, and make notes, without an expenditure of time which I can not bestow upon it. Some of your notes I do not understand.

So far as it is intended merely to improve in grammar and elegance of composition, I am quite agreed; but I do not wish the sense changed, or modified, to a hair's breadth. And you, not having

[1] Appointed judge of the Court of Claims by President Lincoln in 1865 and made chief justice of the court by President Cleveland in 1896.

studied the particular points so closely as I have, can not be quite sure that you do not change the sense when you do not intend it. For instance, in a note at bottom of first page, you propose to substitute "Democrats" for "Douglas." But what I am saying there is *true* of Douglas, and is not true of "Democrats" generally; so that the proposed substitution would be a very considerable blunder. Your proposed insertion of "residences" though it would do little or no harm, is not at all necessary to the sense I was trying to convey. On page 5 your proposed grammatical change would certainly do no harm. The "*impudently absurd*" I stick to. The striking out "he" and inserting "we" turns the sense exactly wrong. The striking out "upon it" leaves the sense too general and incomplete. The sense is "act as they acted *upon that question*" — not as they acted generally.

After considering your proposed changes on page 7, I do not think them material, but I am willing to defer to you in relation to them.

On page 9, striking out "to us" is probably right. The word "lawyer's" I wish retained. The word "Courts" struck out twice, I wish reduced to "Court" and retained. "Court" as a collective noun properly governs the plural "have" as I understand. "The" preceding "Court," in the latter case, must also be retained. The words "quite," "as," and "or" on the same page, I wish retained.

The italicising, and quotation marking, I have no objection to.

As to the note at bottom, I do not think any too much is admitted. What you propose on page 11, is right. I return your copy of the speech, together with one printed here, under my own hasty supervising. That at New York was printed without any supervision by me. If you conclude to publish a new edition, allow me to see the proof-sheets.

And now thanking you for your very complimentary letter, and your interest for me generally, I subscribe myself.

Your friend and servant,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Ills. May 31, 1860.

Hon. L. Trumbull

My dear Sir: Yours of the 28th, inclosing that which I have carefully read, and now return, is received. Please say to Mr. Hamlin that my letter of acceptance is already written and forwarded to Mr. Ashmun,[2] at Springfield, Mass.; that I would send him, Mr. Hamlin, a copy, only that Mr. Ashmun, when here, sought and obtained a promise

[1] See note on p. 66.

[2] George Ashmun of Massachusetts, Chairman of the Republican National Convention.

from me that I would furnish a copy to no one; that the letter is very short, and, I think, conflicts with none of Mr. Morey's suggestions, except that it may be published by Mr. Ashmun before the Baltimore Convention. Perhaps it would be best for Mr. Hamlin and yourself not to communicate the fact that the letter of acceptance is already written. I am glad to learn the Philadelphia meeting had force enough to not be spoiled by the storm. I look with great interest for your letters now.

Your friend as ever,

A. Lincoln

To William A. Buckingham [1]

Springfield, Illinois,
June 4, 1860.

Hon. Wm A. Buckingham

My Dear Sir: Your kind letter of congratulation was duly received, and I beg you will believe that necessity alone has delayed the acknowledgement of its receipt so long. I am truly glad to learn that you have recovered your voice and that your general health is better.

Please present my respects to Mrs. B. and believe me,

Very truly yours,

A. Lincoln

[1] Governor of Connecticut, 1858–66. Printed by the courtesy of Gen. William Appleton Aiken, of Norwich, Conn.

To Joseph C. Abbott

Springfield, Ills. June 4, 1860.

Joseph C. Abbott, Esq.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 22nd was duly received, but, till now I have not found leisure to so much as acknowledge the receipt of it.

Of course I very well remember you; and I shall be pleased to hear from you at any time.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Ills. June 5, 1860

Hon. L. Trumbull

My dear Sir: Yours of May 31, inclosing Judge Read's [2] letter, is received.

I see by the papers this morning, that Mr. Fillmore refuses to go with us. What do the New-Yorkers at Washington think of this? Gov. Reeder was here last evening direct from Pennsylvania. He is entirely confident of that State, and of the general result. I do not remember to have heard Gen. Cameron's opinion of Penn. Weed was here, and saw me; but he showed no signs whatever of the intriguer. He asked for nothing; and said N.Y. is safe, without condition.

[1] See note on p. 66.

[2] Judge Read of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Remembering that Peter denied his Lord with an oath, after most solemnly protesting that he never would, I will not swear I will make no committals; but I do think I will not.

Write me often. I look with great interest for your letters now.

Yours as ever, A. Lincoln

To Charles Lanman

Springfield, Ill., June 9, 1860.

Charles Lanman Esq.,

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 4th is duly received; and I shall gratefully accept the book when it arrives, as it has not yet done. I already have a copy which I purchased near a year ago, and which I have found both interesting and valuable.

I thank you for both your letter and the book, and shall be pleased to meet you at any time.

Yours respectfully,

A. Lincoln.

To J. E. Tilton

Springfield, Ill.,
June 11, 1860.

To J. E. Tilton.

Boston.

Dear Sir: I have received your note . . . and also the book. . . .

I have not yet had time to examine the book, but

when I shall have done so, I probably shall present it it [*sic*] to the younger Lincoln, as you request.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln.

To Joshua R. Giddings [1]

Springfield, Ills., June 26, 1860

Hon. J. R. Giddings.

My dear Sir: Yours of June 19th was received in due course, and its receipt would have been sooner acknowledged but for illness in my family. The suggestions you make are very important, and are duly appreciated by me. If I fail, it will be for lack of ability, and not of purpose.

Your note, sent by Mr. Tuck, was received, and answered; but as you make no mention of my answer, I fear you did not receive it.

Mrs. L. joins me in remembrances and good wishes for you.

Your very truly, A. Lincoln.

To George W. Lewis

Springfield, Ill., June 30, 1860

Geo. W. Lewis, Esq.,

Dear Sir: Herewith I send you my autograph, which you request.

Yours truly A. Lincoln

[1] This is the second letter to Mr. Giddings after Mr. Lincoln's nomination for President. Original owned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik.

To Leonard Swett

Springfield, Ills., July 16, 1860

Dear Swett: Herewith I return the letters of Messrs. Putnam and Casey. I thank you for sending them — in the main, they bring good news. And yet that matter mentioned by Mr. Casey about want of confidence in their Central committee pains me. I am afraid there is a germ of difficulty in it. Will not the men thus suspected, and treated as proposed, rebel, and make a dangerous explosion? When you write Mr. Casey, suggest to him that great caution and delicacy of action is necessary in that matter.

I would like to see you and the Judge, one or both, about that matter of your going to Pennsylvania.

Yours, as ever,

A. Lincoln

To Francis E. Spinner [1]

Springfield, Ills. July 27, 1860.

Hon. F. E. Spinner.

Dear Sir: You will perhaps be pleased, as I have been, to know that many good men have tendered me substantially the same advice that you do (ex-

[1] Member of Congress from New York, 1855–61; Treasurer of the United States, 1861–75.

cepting as to re-election) and that no single man of any mark has, so far, tempted me to a contrary course. . . .

Yours very truly, A. Lincoln.

To Thomas Doney

Springfield, Ills., July 30, 1860.

Thomas Doney, Esq.

My dear Sir: The picture (I know not the artistic designation) was duly and thankfully received. I consider it a very excellent one; though, truth to say, I am a very indifferent judge.

The receipt of it should have been acknowledged long ago; but it had passed from my mind till reminded of it by the letter of our friend, Dr. Dodson.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To George G. Fogg [1]

Springfield, Ills. Aug. 16, 1860

Hon. George G. Fogg.

My dear Sir: I am annoyed some by the printed paragraph below, in relation to myself, taken from the N.Y. Herald's correspondence from this place of August 8th.

[1] Then a member of the Republican National Committee; afterwards Minister to Switzerland (1861–65) and Senator from New Hampshire (1866–67). Original owned by Mr. Judd Stewart, Plainfield, N.J.

"He had, he said, on one occasion been invited to go into Kentucky and revisit some of the scenes with whose history his father in his lifetime had been identified. On asking by letter whether Judge Lynch would be present, he received no response; and he therefore came to the conclusion that the invitation was a trap laid by some designing person to inveigle him into a slave state for the purpose of doing violence to his person."

This is decidedly wrong. I did not say it. I do not impugn the correspondent. I suppose he misconceived the statement from the following incident. Soon after the Chicago nomination, I was written to by a highly respectable gentleman of Harden County, Ky., inquiring if I was a son of Thomas Lincoln, whom he had known long ago in that county. I answered that I was, and that I was myself born there. He wrote again, and, among other things, (did not invite me) but simply inquired if it would not be agreeable to me to revisit the scenes of my childhood. I replied among other things, "It would indeed, but would you not Lynch me?" He did not write again.

I have *playfully* (and never otherwise) related this incident several times; and I suppose I did so to the Herald correspondent, though I do not remember it. If I did, it is all that I did say from which the correspondent could have inferred his statement.

Now, I dislike, exceedingly, for Kentuckians to understand that I am charging them with a purpose to inveigle me, and do violence to me. Yet I can not go into the newspapers. Would not the editor of the Herald, upon being shown this letter, insert the short correction which you find upon the inclosed scrap?

Please try him, unless you perceive some sufficient reason to the contrary. In no event, let my name be publicly used.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln.

Correction

We have such assurance as satisfies us that our correspondent writing from Springfield, Ills., under date of Aug. 8 was mistaken in representing Mr. Lincoln as expressing a suspicion of a design to inveigle him into Kentucky for the purpose of doing him violence.

Mr. Lincoln neither entertains, nor has intended to express any such suspicion.

To George Bliss and Others[1]

Springfield, Aug. 22, 1860.

To Messrs. Geo. Bliss & Others, Managers &c.

Gentlemen: Yours of the 8th inviting my attendance at your National Exhibition of Imported

[1] Original owned by P. F. Madigan, Esq.

Blood & American breeds of Horses, on the 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th days of September, at Springfield, Mass., was received in due course, and should have been answered sooner.

For reasons not necessary to be mentioned, I am constrained to decline the honor which you so kindly tender me.

Your Obt. Servant,

A. Lincoln.

To George G. Fogg

Springfield, Ills. Aug. 29, 1860.

Hon. George G. Fogg.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 23rd was only received yesterday evening.

You have done precisely right in that matter with the Herald. Do nothing further about it. Although it wrongs me, and annoys me some, I prefer letting it run its course, to getting into the papers over my own name. I regret the trouble it has given you, and thank you also for having performed your part so cheerfully and correctly.

What you say of the Empire state is of a piece with all the news I received from there. The whole field appears reasonably well.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Anson G. Chester[1]

Private

Springfield, Ills., Sept 5, 1860

Anson G. Chester, Esq.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 1st is received. The extract upon a newspaper slip which you sent, and which I herewith return, is a base forgery, so far as its authorship is imputed to me. I never said anything like it, at any time or place. I do not recognize it as anything I have ever seen before, emanating from any source. I wish my name not to be used; but my friends will be entirely safe in denouncing the thing as a forgery, so far as it is ascribed to me.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln

The Clipping

Lincoln on Jefferson. — The Macomb (Ill.) Eagle rakes up the following extract from a speech made by Mr. Lincoln in 1844:

Mr. Jefferson is a statesman whose praises are never out of the mouth of the democratic party. Let us attend to this uncompromising friend of freedom, whose name is continually invoked against the Whig party. The character of Jefferson was repulsive. Continually puling about liberty,

[1] Original owned by Mr. Thomas R. Proctor, Utica, N.Y.

equality, and the degrading curse of slavery, he brought his own children to the hammer, and made money of his debaucheries. Even at his death he did not manumit his numerous offspring, but left them, soul and body, to degradation and the cart whip. A daughter of this vaunted champion of democracy was sold some years ago at public auction in New Orleans, and purchased by a society of gentlemen, who wished to testify by her liberation their admiration of the statesman who

"Dreampt of freedom in a slave's embrace."

This single line I have quoted gives more insight to the character of the man than whole volumes of panegyric. It will outlive his epitaph, write it who may.

To Alexander K. McClure [1]

Springfield, Ills., Sept. 6, 1860

A. K. McClure, Esq.,

My dear Sir: Inclosed I send you a copy of a letter from New York, stating a matter, which, if true, deeply concerns our interests in Pennsylvania. The writer does not wish to be known; but some revelations of his in a former letter have subsequently been verified.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

[1] Mr. McClure had been a Lincoln delegate from Pennsylvania to the Republican Convention of 1860 and was made chairman of the Republican State Committee.

To Nathaniel Grigsby [1]

Springfield, Ills.,
Sept. 20, 1860.

Nathaniel Grigsby, Esq.,

My dear Sir: Your letter of July 19th was received only a few days ago having been mailed by your brother at Gentryville, Ind., on the 12th of the month. A few days ago, Gov. Wood of Quincy told me he saw you, and that you said you had written me. I had not then received your letter.

Of our three families who removed from Indiana together, my father, Squire Hall, and John D. Johnston, are dead, and all the rest of us are yet living, of course the younger ones are grown up, marriages contracted and new ones born. I have three boys now, the oldest of which is seventeen years of age.

There is now a Republican electoral ticket in Missouri, so that you can vote for me if your neighbors will let you. I would advise you not to get into any trouble about it. Give my kindest regards to your brother Charlie. Within the present year I have had two letters from John Gorden, who is living somewhere in Missouri, I forget exactly where, and he says his father and mother are still living near him.

Yours very truly, A. Lincoln.

[1] Brother of Aaron Grigsby, who married Lincoln's sister. The original is owned by Mr. James W. Grigsby, of Attica, Kans.

To Mrs. M. J. Green

Springfield, Ills. Sep 22 1860.

Mrs. M. J. Green

My dear Madam: Your kind congratulatory letter, of August, was received in due course, and should have been answered sooner. The truth is I have never corresponded much with ladies; and hence I postpone writing letters to them, as a business which I do not understand. I can only say now I thank you for the good opinion you express of me, fearing, at the same time, I may not be able to maintain it through life.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln

To Charles C. Nott

Springfield, Ills.,
Sept 22, 1860.

Charles C. Nott, Esq.,

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 17th was duly received. The 250 copies have not yet arrived. I am greatly obliged to you for what you have done, and what you propose to do.

The "Abraham Baldwin letter" in substance was that I could not find the Journal of the Confederation Congress for the session at which was passed the Ordinance of 1787, and that in stating Mr. Baldwin had voted for its passage, I had relied

on a communication of Mr. Greeley, over his own signature, published in the New York *Weekly Tribune* of October 15, 1859. If you will turn to that paper, you will there see that Mr. Greeley apparently copies from the Journal, and places the name of Mr. Baldwin among those of the men who voted for the measure.

Still, if the Journal itself shows differently, of course it is right.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To L. Montgomery Bond [1]

Private

Springfield, Ills. Oct. 15, 1860

L. Montgomery Bond.

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 1st has been at hand some days. You ask, "In the event of your election to the Presidency, and of the election of a majority of Republicans to the next Congress, would you favor radicalism, to embitter still more the feelings of our Southern brethren?" I certainly am in no temper, and have no purpose to embitter the feelings of the south; but whether I am inclined to such a course as would in fact embitter their feelings,

[1] The last sentence of this letter was printed in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, Tandy's ed., 1905, VI, 62, and in *Writings*, Lapsley, V, 192.

you can better judge by my published speeches than any thing I would say in a short letter, if I were inclined now, as I am not, to define my position anew.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To David Turnham [1]

Springfield, Ills. Oct. 23, 1860.

David Turnham, Esq.,

My dear old friend: Your kind letter of the 17th is received. I am indeed very glad to learn you are still living and well. I well remember when you and I last met, after a separation of fourteen years, at the cross-road voting place in the fall of 1844. It is now sixteen years more and we are both no longer young men. I suppose you are a grandfather; and I, though married much later in life, have a son nearly grown.

I would like much to visit the old home, and old friends of my boyhood, but I fear the chance for doing so is not very good.

Your friend and sincere well-wisher

A. Lincoln.

[1] A boyhood friend of Lincoln's at Gentryville, Ind. Original owned by G. W. Turnham, Esq., Evansville, Ind.

To George G. Fogg

Springfield, Ills.,
Oct. 31, 1860.

George G. Fogg, Esq.

My dear Sir: I sincerely thank you for yours of the 26th. It is the first I have had from any of our knowing friends at the City for several days.

Allow me to beg that you will not live in much apprehension of my precipitating a letter upon the public.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Park Benjamin

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 19, 1860

Park Benjamin, Esq.

My dear Sir: Your kind note of congratulation was received in due course; and you are not disappointed in the hope you express that I may set some value upon it.

That my political position, and personal history are such as to meet the unselfish approval of one possessing your high literary fame and character, is matter of sincere pride with me.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

For Lyman Trumbull [1]

[The following autographic document begins with a memorandum in Lyman Trumbull's handwriting.]

Furnished by Mr. Lincoln & copied into my remarks to be made at the celebration at Springfield, Ill. Nov. 20, 1860

I have labored in, and for, the Republican organization with entire confidence that whenever it shall be in power, each and all of the States will be left in as complete control of their own affairs respectively, and at as perfect liberty to choose, and employ, their own means of protecting property, and preserving peace and order within their respective limits, as they have ever been under any administration. Those who have voted for Mr. Lincoln, have expected, and still expect this; and they would not have voted for him had they expected otherwise. I regard it as extremely fortunate for the peace of the whole country, that this point, upon which the Republicans have been so long, and so persistently misrepresented, is now to be brought to a practical test, and placed beyond the possibility of doubt. Disunionists *per se*, are now in hot haste to get out of the Union, precisely because they perceive they can not, much longer, maintain apprehension among the Southern people that their homes, and firesides, and lives, are to be

[1] See note on p. 66.

endangered by the action of the Federal Government. With such "*Now, or never*" is the maxim.

I am rather glad of this military preparation in the South. It will enable the people the more easily to suppress any uprisings there, which their misrepresentations of purposes may have encouraged.

To Fred W. French

Springfield, Ill., Nov 21, 1860.

Fred W. French, Esq.,

Dear Sir: Herewith I send you my autograph which you request.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

To Henry C. Whitney [1]

Chicago, Nov. 26, 1860

H. C. Whitney, Esq.

My dear Sir, — Your note in behalf of Mr. Alshuler was received. I gave him a sitting.

I regret not having an opportunity to see more of you.

Please present my respects to Mrs. W. & to your good Father and Mother.

Yours very truly A. Lincoln

H. C. Whitney, Esq.
Present.

[1] From a facsimile in Henry C. Whitney's *Life on the Circuit with Lincoln*, facing p. 468.

For John H. Littlefield [1]

Springfield Nov. 30, 1860

I will pay five dollars to whoever will loan that sum to the bearer, Mr. Littlefield.

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull

Private

Springfield, Ill.,
Dec 8, 1860.

Hon. Lyman Trumbull,

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 2nd is received. I regret exceedingly the anxiety of our friends in New York, of whom you write; but it seems to me the sentiment in that state which sent a united delegation to Chicago in favor of Gov. Seward ought not and must not be snubbed, as it would be, by the omission to offer Gov. S. a place in the Cabinet. I *will myself take care of the question of "corrupt jobs"* and see that justice is done to all our friends of whom you wrote as well as others.

I have written Mr. Hamlin on this very subject of Gov. S. and requested him to consult fully with you.

He will show you my note and enclosures to him; and then please act as therein requested.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

[1] A student in Lincoln and Herndon's law office in 1859–60.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Private & Confidential

Springfield, Ills. Dec. 10. 1860

Hon. L. Trumbull.

My dear Sir: Let there be no compromise on the question of extending slavery. If there be, all our labor is lost, and, ere long, must be done again. The dangerous ground — that into which some of our friends have a hankering to run — is Pop. Sov. Have none of it. Stand firm. The tug has to come, & better now than any time hereafter.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [2]

Confidential

Springfield, Ills. Dec. 17. 1860

Hon. Lyman Trumbull

My dear Sir: Yours inclosing Mr. Wade's letter, which I herewith return, is received.

If any of our friends do prove false, and fix up a compromise on the territorial question, I am for fighting again — that is all. It is but repetition for me to say I am for an honest inforcement of the Constitution — fugitive slave clause included.

[1] See note on p. 66. [2] See note on p. 66.

Mr. Gilmer[1] of N.C. wrote me; and I answered confidentially, inclosing my letter to Gov. Corwin, to be delivered or not, as he might deem prudent. I now inclose you a copy of it.

[The signature has been cut off, probably for an autograph-seeker.]

To Lyman Trumbull

Confidential

Springfield, Ill.,
Dec. 21st, 1860.

Hon. Lyman Trumbull.

My Dear Sir: Thurlow Weed was with me nearly all day yesterday, and left last night with three short resolutions which I drew up, and which, or the substance of which, I think, would do much good if introduced and unanimously supported by our friends. They do not touch the territorial question. Mr. Weed goes to Washington with them; and says that he will first of all confer with you and Mr. Hamlin. I think it would be best for Mr. Seward to introduce them and Mr. Weed will let him know that I think so. Show this to Mr. Hamlin, but beyond him do not let my name be known in the matter.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

[1] John A. Gilmer, Member of Congress. He was suggested for Lincoln's cabinet.

To Lyman Trumbull [1]

Springfield, Ills. Dec. 24, 1860

Hon. Lyman Trumbull

My dear Sir. I expect to be able to offer Mr. Blair a place in the cabinet; but I can not, as yet, be committed on the matter, to any extent whatever.

Despatches have come here two days in succession, that the Forts in South Carolina will be surrendered by the order, or consent at least, of the President.

I can scarcely believe this; but if it prove true, I will, if our friends at Washington concur, announce publicly at once that they are to be retaken after the inauguration. This will give the Union Men a rallying cry, and preparation will proceed somewhat on their side, as well as on the other.

Yours as ever

A. Lincoln.

To Lyman Trumbull [2]

Very Confidential

Springfield, Ill. Jan. 7, 1861.

Hon. Lyman Trumbull.

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 3^{d} is just received. . . . Gen. C. has not been offered the Treasury and

[1] See note on p. 66.

[2] From Horace White's *The Life of Lyman Trumbull*, p. 145.

I think will not be. It seems to me not only highly proper but a *necessity* that Gov. Chase shall take that place. His ability, firmness, and purity of character produce this propriety; and that he alone can reconcile Mr. Bryant and his class to the appointment of Gov. S. to the State Department produces the necessity. But then comes the danger that the protectionists of Pennsylvania will be dissatisfied; and to clear this difficulty Gen. C. must be brought to coöperate. He would readily do this for the War Department. But then comes the fierce opposition to his having any Department, threatening even to send charges into the Senate to procure his rejection by that body. Now, what I would most like, and what I think he should prefer too, under the circumstances, would be to retain his place in the Senate, and if that place has been promised to another let that other take a respectable and reasonably lucrative place abroad. Also, let Gen. C.'s friends be, with entire fairness, cared for in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. I may mention before closing that besides the very fixed opposition to Gen. C. he is more amply recommended for a place in the Cabinet than any other man. . . .

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Leonard Swett

Springfield, Jan. 9, 1861.

Hon. L. Swett.

Dear Sir: This introduces Mr. William Yates, who visits Bloomington on some business matters. He is pecuniarily responsible for anything he will say; and in fact, for anything he will say on any subject.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln

To Mrs. C. W. Pratt

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 26, 1861.

Mrs. C. W. Pratt.

Dear Madam: Herewith I send you my autograph, which you request.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To George D. Prentice [1]

Private.

Springfield, Ills. Feb. 2, 1861.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 31st ult. requesting a copy of the inaugural is received. I have the document blocked out; but in the now rapidly shifting

[1] The able editor of the *Louisville Journal*, a leading Whig newspaper which Lincoln had read from his youth. He supported the Union when the War broke out.

scenes, I shall have to hold it subject to revision up to near the time of delivery. So soon as it shall take what I can regard as its final shape, I shall remember, if I can, to send you a copy.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln.

To Mark W. Delahay [1]

Executive Mansion,
March 13th, 1861.

M. W. Delahay, Esq.

My dear Sir: You will start for Kansas before I see you again: and when I saw you a moment this morning, I forgot to ask you about some of the Kansas appointments, which I intended to do.

If you care much about them, you can write, as I think I shall not make the appointments just yet.

Yours in haste,

A. Lincoln.

Endorsement

I wish Mr. Thomas Musten and Mr. Jones, named within, may retain their places for the present at least.

A. Lincoln

March 25, 1861.

[1] Printed in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, 1894, II, 10, and same, Tandy's ed., 1905, VI, 191, with the name suppressed.

To Secretary Welles

Executive Mansion,
March 29, 1861.

Honorable Sec. of the Navy,

Sir: I desire that an expedition to move by sea be got ready to sail as early as the 6th of April next, the whole according to memorandum enclosed; and that you coöperate with the Secretary of War for that object.

Your obedient servant, A. Lincoln

Memoranda

Navy Department. — The Pocahontas at Norfolk, the Pawnee at Washington, and revenue cutter Harriet Lane at New York, to be ready for sea with one month's stores.

Three hundred seamen to be ready for leaving the receiving ship at New York.

War Department. — Two hundred men at New York ready to leave garrison. One year's stores to be put in a portable form.

To Secretary Cameron [1]

Draft of an unsigned letter written but not officially transmitted

Executive Mansion,
March 1861.

To the Secretary of War,

Sir: You will favor me by issuing an order detailing Lieut. E. E. Ellsworth of the 1st Dragoons,

[1] Copy furnished by Mr. Judd Stewart.

for special duty as Adjutant and Inspector General of militia affairs, for the United States, and in so far as existing laws will admit, charge him with the transaction, under your direction, of all business pertaining to the militia, to be conducted as a separate bureau of which Lieut. Ellsworth will be chief; with instructions to take measures for promoting a uniform system of organization, drill, equipment, etc., of the United States militia, and to prepare a system of instruction for the militia, to be distributed to the several states. You will please assign him suitable office rooms, furniture, etc., and provide him with a clerk and messenger, and furnish him such facilities in the way of printing, stationery, access to records, etc., as he may desire for the successful prosecution of his duties; and also provide, if you please, in such manner as will best answer the purpose, for a monthly payment to Lieut. Ellsworth, for this extra duty, sufficient to make his pay and emoluments equal that of a Major of Cavalry.

To Postmaster-General Blair [1]

Executive Mansion.
April 11, 1861.

Hon. P. M. G.

Sir — Has a Post-Master been appointed, as yet, at Covington, Ky. Col. Carpenter wishes John S.

[1] From a facsimile in Helen Nicolay's *Personal Traits of Abraham Lincoln*, p. 186.

Scott to be appointed. He says Scott is a Douglas Union-man. I know nothing as to the propriety of this; but write to keep a promise.

LINCOLN

To Secretary Chase [1]

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
April 11, 1861.

HON. S. P. CHASE.

Dear Sir: W. W. Danenhower is the only marked representative of the American organization in Illinois, who coöperated with us in 1858 and 1860, and who is now asking anything here. He was very serviceable to us then, and is very needy now.

Can anything be found for him — permanent or temporary?

Please try.

Yours very truly, A. LINCOLN

To Attorney-General Bates

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
April 12, 1861.

HON. ATTY. GENERAL,

My dear Sir: On examination of papers, and full consideration, I have concluded to appoint Earl Bile, Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio.

Please send me the commission.

Yours truly A. LINCOLN.

[1] Original owned by Mr. Joseph A. McAleenan, New York.

To Secretary Smith

Executive Mansion,
Washington April 13, 1861.

Secretary of the Interior.

Dear Sir: Send Commissions as follows: Register of Land Office at Sante Fé, N.M., Joel Houghton, in place of O. H. Perry Richardson, removed.

Indian Agent at Sante Fé, John Ward, in place of Silas Kendrick, removed.

Indian Agent, Ramon Luna, in place of John L. Russell, removed.

Indian Agent, José Antonio Maurinares, in place of Diego Archuletta, removed.

If you and Mr. Dole approve the above, let the Commissions be sent.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Secretary Welles [1]

Executive Mansion,
April 23, 1861.

Hon. Secretary of Navy,

Dear Sir: I think I saw three vessels go up to the Navy Yard just now. Will you please send down and learn what they are?

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

[1] Original owned by Mr. Joseph A. McAleenan, New York.

To Postmaster-General Blair

Executive Mansion,
April 24, 1861.

Hon. P. M. General,

My dear Sir: Near a week ago, it was settled for Cornelius Walborn to be Post-Master at Philadelphia. Has the actual appointment been made? I have the papers in the case from your Department lying by me, and will sign and send them over, if you say so.

Your obed't Serv't,

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Welles

Executive Mansion,
Washington, April 25, 1861.

Hon. Secretary of Navy,

My dear Sir: Francis A. Hoffmann, our Lieut Governor of Illinois has an application on file for his son Francis to be appointed to the Naval School, but finds he is too old. He therefore wishes to substitute the name of a younger son — Julius Hoffmann — who is now but sixteen. I wish this appointment made so soon as it can be consistently with what I have already said in other cases.

Please keep me reminded of it.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

Endorsement on Letter of Secretary Seward

Col. Lander is a valuable man to us. Will Gen'l Scott see him a few minutes and consider the feasibility of his plans? [1]

A. Lincoln

May 4, 1861.

To Secretary Chase [2]

Executive Mansion,
May 7, 1861.

Hon. Secretary of Treasury.

My dear Sir: You may remember that John S. Gallaher, a worthy Virginia gentleman, has been and is an applicant for an Auditorship in your Department. He now writes a friend here that he understands that the place of 5th Auditor has been made vacant by the resignation of a North Carolinian. If this is true, might not Mr. Gallaher have the place? [3]

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

[1] Col. Lander had a project of raising a Virginia regiment.

[2] Original owned by Mr. Joseph A. McAleenan.

[3] John C. Underwood of Virginia received the appointment, serving from July 31, 1861, to Aug. 31, 1863.

To Joseph H. Barrett, *Commissioner of Pensions*[1]

Executive Mansion
May 8, 1861

Hon. Com^R of Pensions,

My dear Sir: Once more I ask you to find a clerkship for a man of your own name — O. D. Barret, of Oswego Co., New York.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Cameron[2]

Executive Mansion,
May 21, 1861

Hon. Secretary of War.

My dear Sir: — Why cannot Colonel Small's Philadelphia regiment be received? I sincerely wish it could. There is something strange about it. Give these gentlemen an interview, and take their regiment.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] From a facsimile in *Munsey's Magazine*, xii, 591 (Mar., 1895), after the original in the collection of Mr. Lawrence Mendenhall.

[2] Printed in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., v, 308.

To Commander John A. Dahlgren[1]

Executive Mansion,
May 23, 1861.

Capt. Dahlgren.

My dear Sir: — Allow me to introduce Col. J. A. McClernand, M. C. of my own district in Illinois. If he should desire to visit Fortress Monroe, please introduce him to the captain of one of the vessels in our service, and pass him down and back.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Gen. Lorenzo Thomas[2]

Executive Mansion,
May 27, 1861.

Gen. Thomas,

The three gentleman who will hand you this note, belong to an Artillery Company at Baltimore who wish to get into the United States Service . . . and . . . if you advise it, I will receive them. I hate to reject any offer from what is called a Southern State. . . .

A. Lincoln

[1] Printed in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., v, 309.
[2] The Adjutant-General.

To Secretary Cameron [1]

Executive Mansion,
May 30, 1861.

Hon. Secretary of War.

My dear Sir — Colonel Julian Allen, a Polish gentleman, naturalized, proposes raising a regiment of our citizens of his nationality, to serve in our army. He proposes getting them from the different states, without particular order, as can be most conveniently done, and organizing them here, so that they, as a regiment, shall hail from no particular state. Mr. Allen is highly recommended, as you will see by his testimonials.

If he so raises and tenders a regiment, I am in favor of accepting it, unless there be some objection which does not occur to me.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Secretary Chase

Endorsement

Hon. Sec. of Treasury,

If it is determined, as I suppose, that Mr. Muller [2] be appointed, let it be done at once; as by the above it appears to be necessary.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

May 31, 1861.

[1] In Alvah P. French's collection.

[2] James N. Muller.

To Gen. James W. Ripley [1]

Will Gen. Ripley please consider whether this Musket-shell would be a valuable missile in battle?

June 2, 1861. A. Lincoln

To Secretary Welles [2]

Executive Mansion,
June 17, 1861.

Hon. Sec. of Navy,

My dear Sir: General Rousseau introduces to me Charles E. Anderson whom he wishes to have appointed Paymaster in the Navy. As I have no doubt of his fitness for the place, and as the appointment would be a Kentucky appointment, I think it ought to be made as soon as it consistently can.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To Ninian W. Edwards [3]

Washington, D.C., June 19, 1861.

Hon. N. W. Edwards

My dear Sir: It pains me to hear you speak of being ruined in your pecuniary affairs. I still hope

[1] Chief of Ordnance.

[2] Original owned by Mrs. Nellie Anderson, Greencastle, Ind. Copy furnished by Jesse W. Weik, Esq.

[3] A brother-in-law of Mrs. Lincoln and a lawyer and public

you are injured only, and not ruined. When you wrote me some time ago in reference to looking up something in the Departments here, I thought I would inquire into the thing and write you, but the extraordinary pressure upon me diverted me from it, and soon it passed out of my mind. The thing you proposed, it seemed to me, I ought to understand myself before it was set on foot by my direction or permission; and I really had no *time* to make myself acquainted with it — nor have I yet. And yet I am unwilling, of course, that you should be deprived of a chance to make something, if it can be done without injustice to the Government, or to any individual. If you choose to come here and point out to me how this can be done, I shall not only not object, but shall be gratified to be able to oblige you.

Your friend as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Secretary Cameron [1]

Executive Mansion, June 20, 1861.

My dear Sir: — Since you spoke to me yesterday about General J. H. Lane, of Kansas, I have been reflecting upon the subject, and have concluded

official of Illinois. Lincoln appointed him captain commissary of subsistence in August, 1861. Printed, without the first two sentences, in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., v, 313.

[1] Printed in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., v, 314.

that we need the service of such a man out there at once; that we had better appoint him a brigadier-general of volunteers to-day, and send him off with such authority to raise a force (I think *two* regiments better than *three*, but as to this I am not particular) as you think will get him into actual work quickest. Tell him, when he starts, to put it through — not to be writing or telegraphing back here, but put it through.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

Hon. Secretary of War.

[*Endorsement*]

General Lane has been authorized to raise two additional regiments of volunteers.

Simon Cameron,
Secretary of War.

To Col. Ward H. Lamon [1]

Washington, D.C.
June 25, 1861.

Col. W. H. Lamon:

My dear Sir, — I spoke to the Secretary of War yesterday, and he consents, and so do I, that as fast as you get Companies, you may procure a

[1] From Ward Hill Lamon's *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln*, 2d ed., Washington, 1911, p. xxix.

U.S. officer, and have them mustered in. Have this done quietly; because we cannot do the labor of adopting it as a general practice.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln

To the Treasury Department [1]

I desire that the Treasury Department will devise a system or plan for disbursing the appropriation mentioned within, and if, according to said plan, disbursing agents are to be appointed I shall be ready to appoint them, on the recommendation of the Department. In case of Indiana, I am satisfied with Jonathan S. Hawry, named within as disbursing agent.

A. Lincoln.

July 19, 1861

To Orville H. Browning

Executive Mansion,
July 20, 1861.

Hon. O. H. Browning.

My dear Sir: To-day I send to the Senate the arrangement made through Mr. Williams with the Delaware Indians asking their advice as to the making a formal treaty of it, as it already is in sub-

[1] Endorsement on Secretary Cameron's letter of July 19, 1861.

stance. On very full reflection, I have thought this course the safest and best. I will thank you if you will move an amendment in about these words: Provided that no part of said lands shall be patented until the money price for such part shall have been fully paid; and provided further that time shall be extended so that the rights of said Railroad Co. under the treaty to which this is supplemental shall not be forfeited until ————————

The provision for the perfect security of the Indians on the one hand; and for the benefit of the Company on the other.

The blank you will fill of course.

Yours as ever,

A. Lincoln.

To Secretary Chase[1]

Executive Mansion,
July 26, 1861.

Mr. Chase: — The bearer, Mr. ———, wants ——— in the custom house at Baltimore. If his recommendations are satisfactory, and I recollect them to have been so, the fact that he is urged by the Methodists should be in his favor, as they complain of us some.

A. Lincoln.

[1] Printed in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., v, 345.

To Thomas A. Scott, *Assistant Secretary of War*

Executive Mansion,
Aug. 3, 1861.

Hon. Asst. Secretary of War.

Gen'l Scroggs of New York wishes to raise a military corps for service of the government and I shall be satisfied with any arrangement you may make with him at the department on the subject.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Rufus F. Andrews [1]

Washington, August 6, 1861.

Hon Rufus F. Andrews

My dear Sir: Mr. James Morss wishes to be Deputy-Surveyor at New York. I do not know him personally, except for the last few days; but the testimonials he has presented interest me enough for him, to induce me to ask for him a fair and careful consideration of his case.

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln

[1] Naval Officer in the New York custom-house.

To General Winfield Scott

Executive Mansion,
August 7, 1861.

Lieut. Gen'l. Scott.

My dear Sir: If it be true, as is intimated to me that you think Gen'l Wool should go to Fortress Monroe, let him be ordered there at once.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Gustave Koerner

Washington, D.C., Aug. 8, 1861.

Hon. G. Koerner.

My dear Sir: Your dispatch saying application of German Brigade is withdrawn, is just received. Without occupying our standpoint, you cannot conceive how this subject embarrasses us. We have promises out, to more than four hundred regiments, which if they all come, are more than we want. If they all come, we could not take yours, if they do not all come we shall want yours, and yet we have no possible means of knowing whether they will all come or not. I hope you will make due allowance for the embarrassment this produces.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Cameron

Secretary of War,

Please see and hear Col. Eaton, whom Gen. Grant thinks is one of the best contraband agents.

A. Lincoln

August 12, 1861.

To Secretary Cameron [1]

Executive Mansion,
August 22, 1861.

Hon. Secretary of War.

Sir: Victor B. Bell, now of Colorado, is one of my most valued friends; and one of the best, if not the very best clerk I ever knew. I would like for him to be an Asst. Quarter Master or Commissary of Subsistence of Volunteers.

Can you not fix it for me?

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

August 22, 1861.

Unaddressed Note

Is there anything in the Marble line which could be given Mr. Rutherford?

A. L.

Aug. 22, 1861.

[1] Original owned by Mr. Judd Stewart, New York.

Endorsement on Letter

I think that the young man within recommended, ought to be appointed, if possible. There is some peculiar reason for it.

A. Lincoln

Aug. 22, 1861.

Endorsement on the Back of an Indignant Letter of William W. Richmond

Will Mr. Richmond distinctly declare that he did not write a letter to Mrs. L. giving Senator Simmons' name as one of his backers for the Consulate?

A. L.

August 25, 1861.

To Secretary Cameron [1]

Executive Mansion,
October 1st, 1861.

Honorable Sec. of War:

My dear Sir: The Postmaster-General and myself have special reasons for wishing to oblige Mr. Benj. F. Watson, of Lawrence, Mass. He has been appointed an Assistant Paymaster or Paymaster of Volunteers, but he wishes the same post in the

[1] From *Abraham Lincoln: Tributes from his Associates*, New York, 1895, p. 143, which see for an account of the circumstances under which the letter was written.

regular Army. If there is any vacancy, not committed to any other person, let Mr. Watson have it. If there be no such vacancy, oblige him, as far as you can, by sending him to service at the place which suits him best.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

Unaddressed Note

I did not know that Foster had a consulship; and if he had, I am astonished that he declines it. Let the Sec of State take the whole case and do as he pleases with it.

A. Lincoln

October 12, 1861.

To Secretary Cameron

Sec of War.

Please see Mr. T. H. Clay, son of the late Hon. Henry Clay.

A. Lincoln

Oct 21, 1861.

To Secretary Smith

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 23, 1861

Hon. Sec. of Interior

My dear Sir: If you can think to mention the next time I see you, I will tell you more fully what

Mr Lewis says of the cases noted by him on the inclosed cards.

Very truly yours, A. Lincoln

To Rev. F. M. Magrath

Executive Mansion
Washington, D.C. October 30, 1861.

Rev. F. M. Magrath

Sir: Having been solicited by Christian Ministers, and other pious people, to appoint suitable persons to act as Chaplains at the hospitals for our sick and wounded soldiers, and feeling the intrinsic propriety of having such persons to so act, and yet believing there is no law conferring the power upon me to appoint them, I think fit to say that if you will voluntarily enter upon, and perform the appropriate duties of such position, I will recommend that Congress make compensation therefor at the same rate as Chaplains in the army are compensated.

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Cameron

Secretary of War, please see Dr. Boyd Pendleton of Va. and, if you can, let him be examined at once to be a Brigade Surgeon. I very much wish to appoint him at once.

A. Lincoln

Nov. 7, 1861.

To General George B. McClellan

Gen. McClellan, —

Please see Hon. Mr. Washburne, M.C. who has been on an investigating committee at St. Louis for sixteen days recently, and can really give more accurate and fuller information on material matters there, than any one I have seen.

A. Lincoln

Nov. 10, 1861.

To L. B. Wyman

Executive Mansion,
Washington, November 11, 1861.

My Dear Sir: I am directed by the President to acknowledge the receipt this morning of your kind invitation for the 22nd of December next, and to state that nothing but the exigencies of public affairs could prevent him from availing himself of the privilege you have been so thoughtful as to tender.

The President regrets the more deeply the necessity that deprives him of the pleasure of meeting you, since at no former time have the memory and the example of our forefathers furnished a more instructive subject for our contemplation, than now, when the institutions they founded are threatened by armed insurrection, and all the

powers of the Government are pledged to the support of the principles for which they toiled and suffered.

I have the honor to be with great respect,
Your Obedient Servant
JOHN HAY
Assistant Priv. Sec.

L. B. WYMAN ESQ
Chairman &c &c

To Secretary Cameron

Sec. of War, please see the bearer who is Marshal of the S. District of Illinois.

A. LINCOLN

DEC. 6, 1861.

To Secretary Smith

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Dec. 13, 1861.

HON. SEC. OF INTERIOR.

My dear Sir: George L. Pomeroy of Illinois, tells me he was a clerk in the Census Bureau, and has been removed. Will you please ascertain, and tell me the circumstances.

Yours truly,
A. LINCOLN.

To Rev. Dr. A. Fischel[1]

Executive Mansion,
Dec 14, 1861.

Rev. Dr. A. Fischel,

My dear Sir: I find that there are several particulars in which the present law in regard to Chaplains is supposed to be deficient, all of which I now design presenting to the appropriate Committee of Congress. I shall try to have a new law broad enough to cover what is desired by you in behalf of the Israelites.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To Judge Advocate

Dec 14, 1861

Judge Advocate:

Please see Mr. Schell and Mr Johnson on business of which I spoke this morning.

Abraham Lincoln.

To Henry Liebman

Executive Mansion,
Washington, D.C. Dec 28, 1861.

Henry Liebman

My dear Sir: Your private letter in regard to Mr. Burtwell is received.

[1] From Isaac Markens's *Abraham Lincoln and the Jews*, a pamphlet printed for the author, New York, 1909.

I have no power to remove a Lieut-Colonel appointed by the Governor of New York. The appeal must be made, if at all, to the Governor.

Yours, etc.,

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Stanton [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Jan. 22, 1862.

To Edwin M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.

My dear Sir: Richard M. Corwine was appointed Judge Advocate by Gen. Frémont on the 20th of July last, and served as such till the 18th of November last. He never had a Commission, but his services were as valuable, and his conduct as meritorious, as if his appointment had been entirely regular. His is but one of a class of cases, which class has been under consideration at the War Department, but what has been done with it I do not know. The meritorious ones ought to have Commissions, nunc pro tunc, and an honorable recognition of them, and should also be paid.

I hope this may be done, including Major Corwine in the arrangement.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] Original owned by P. F. Madigan, of New York.

Endorsement on Letter of Commander John A. Dahlgren

Washington Jan 28, 1862.

Capt. Dahlgren gave his views in this letter, at my request. I have so much confidence in him in naval matters that I enclose it to you as chairman of the naval committee.

A. Lincoln.

Recipient Unknown [1]

My dear Sir: Herewith is the resolution we talked of yesterday. I think my answer thereon included one from the Sec. of War, as well as from you. If you send me back a copy of the resolution, I will lay it before him.

Yours truly A. Lincoln.

To the King of Siam

The President of the U.S. to the King of Siam.

Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
Feb. 3, 1862.

Great and good friend: I have received your Majesty's two letters of the date of Feb. 14, 1861. I

[1] The date and the name of the recipient have been cut from the top of the letter.

have received in good condition the royal gift which accompanied those letters, namely a sword of costly materials and exquisite workmanship, a photographic likeness of your Majesty and of your Majesty's beloved daughter, and also two elephant's tusks of length and magnitude, such as indicate that they could have belonged only to an animal which was a native of Siam.

Your Majesty's letters show an understanding that our laws forbid the President from receiving these rich presents as personal treasures. They are therefore accepted in accordance with your Majesty's desire as tokens of your good will and friendship for the American people. Congress being now in session at this capital, I have had great pleasure in making known to them this manifestation of your Majesty's munificence and kind consideration.

Under their direction the gifts will be placed among the archives of the government where they will remain perpetually as tokens of mutual esteem and pacific disposition more honorable to both nations than any trophies of conquest could be.

I appreciate most highly your Majesty's tender of good offices in forwarding to this Government a stock from which a supply of elephants might be raised on our soil. This Government would not hesitate to avail itself of so generous an offer if the object were one which could be made practically useful in the present condition of the United States.

Our political jurisdiction, however, does not reach a latitude so low as to favor the multiplication of the elephant, and steam on land as well as on water has been our best and most efficient agent of transportation in internal commerce.

I shall have occasion at no distant day to transmit to your Majesty some token of indication of the high sense which this Government entertains of your Majesty's friendship.

Meantime, wishing for your Majesty a long and happy life, and, for the generous and emulous people of Siam, the highest possible prosperity, I commend both to the blessing of Almighty God.

Your good friend,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

To General George B. McClellan

Gen. McClellan please see the bearer, who, with his Regiment, was forced back from the Bermuda Expedition, because of their vessel drawing too much water. They are now at Annapolis, and wish to follow up the Expedition. Can they be provided to do so? Or, what disposition can be made of them?

A LINCOLN

FEB. 14, 1862

Endorsement

This, as is seen, is a most meritorious case; and I shall really be obliged, if the Secretary of War can and will find a situation . . . for the "little sergeant."

A. Lincoln

Feby 27, 1862.

To Secretary Seward

Executive Mansion
March 5, 1862.

Hon. Sec. of State,

My dear Sir: Please summons the Cabinet to meet me here at 7 o'clock this evening

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To General Cooper and Others

These two young men, Richard Middleton and Thomas F. Goodwin seem to have a very meritorious case; and I respectfully commend them to Gen. Cooper, and to others to whom this may be presented.

A. Lincoln

March 8, 1862.

Mr. Middleton states, he has heretofore been employed for several years in the Capitol. I shall be pleased if he can be again employed upon it.

To Orville H. Browning

Will Mr. Senator Browning please see Mr. Muller, who I believe to be a correct and honest man. Give him a fair show if possible.

A. Lincoln

March 14, 1862.

To Colonel Ramsey

Col. Ramsey, please find work for the bearer if possible. He will tell you what he can do.

A. Lincoln

March 27, 1862.

Endorsement on Letter of Silas Crispin, *Captain of Ordnance*

What reason is there that the appraisement made by Major Hayner and adopted and acted upon by Capt. Crispin should not stand, so far as it went.

A. Lincoln

April 15, 1862.

Endorsement on Letter of Stephen Baker[1]

Hon. Mr. Baker, writer of the within, says he has had no appointment, little or large, from his

[1] Representative from New York in the 37th Congress (1861–1863).

District, except the local ones, and he particularly wishes these. I desire that he may be obliged.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

Unaddressed Note

Executive Mansion,
Washington, May 3, 1862.

To-day Mr. Senator Wright introduces a Committee of Citizens of this District consisting of William Dixon, William Wise, Henry Lee, Reuben Bacon, Henry D. Gannell, W. J. Murtagh, James H. Lusby who asks the appointment of George W. Garrett as Warden of Penitentiary.

A. Lincoln.

To Valentine B. Horton

Executive Mansion,
Washington, May 16, 1862.

Hon. V. B. Horton,
M. C. from Ohio,

My dear Sir: Herewith is a copy of your letter with a copy of my Endorsement upon it.

You perceive I did exactly what you requested. Neither more nor less.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

Endorsement on Letter of Valentine B. Horton

I authorize the Secretary of War to appoint Capt. R. F. Hunter, as I am within requested to do by Hon. V. B. Horton.

To James F. Simmons [1]

Executive Mansion,
May 21, 1862.

Hon. Senator Simmons.

My dear Sir: This distressed girl says she belongs to your state; that she was here with her father and brother, in our Army, till they went with it to the peninsula; that her [brother] has been killed there, & her father made prisoner. And that she is here, wanting employment to support herself.

If you can be satisfied that her story is correct, please see if you can not get Mr Secretary Chase or friend Newton to find her a place.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] United States Senator from Rhode Island, 1859–1863. Original owned by P. F. Madigan, Esq.

To Governor Andrew G. Curtin

Executive Mansion
May 26. 1862

His Excellency
A. G. Curtin
Gov. of Penn.

The bearer of this, Edward D. Baker, is the son of my very dear friend Col. Baker, who fell at Balls Bluff. He thinks you might be induced to make him a field officer in a Pennsylvania Regiment. Disclaiming all wish to interfere in a matter so purely belonging to you and your State, I still say I would be much pleased, if he could be obliged.

Yours truly

A Lincoln

Recommending Ward H. Lamon

The bearer of this, W. H. Lamon, is Marshal of D.C. — my particular friend, born and raised at Bunker Hill, an excellent horseman, and, I think, will be most valuable for scouting purposes.

A. Lincoln

May 28, 1862.

[*Facsimile*]

The bearer of this, W. H. Lamon, is Marshal of D.C.,— My particular friend, born & raised at Bunker-Hill, an excellent horseman, and, I think, will be most valuable for scouting purposes.

May 28. 1862. A. Lincoln

To Solomon Foot [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, July 15, 1862.

Hon Solomon Foot
U.S. Senator

Sir: I am sorry Senators could not so far trust me as to believe I had some real cause for wishing them to remain. I am considering a bill which came to me only late in the day yesterday, and the subject of which has perplexed Congress for more than half a year. I may return it with objections; and if I should, I wish Congress to have the opportunity of obviating the objections, or of passing it into a law notwithstanding them. That is all.

Your obedient servant

A. Lincoln

Endorsement on Letter of James Harlan [2]

Washington July 29, 1862

I have some acquaintance with Mr. Taylor [3] and think his appointment would be a good one.

A. Lincoln

[1] Senator from Vermont, 1857–1866. This is the second letter to Senator Foot about adjournment written on the same day.

[2] United States Senator from Iowa, 1855–65 and 1867–73; Secretary of the Interior, 1865–66.

[3] Hawkins Taylor.

To Gen. Henry W. Halleck

Executive Mansion
Washington, Aug. 7, 1862.

Major Gen. Halleck,

Please see Gen. Casey. He considers himself aggrieved, and appeals to me for justice. But I do not know what would be justice in the case and have not the time to inquire.

Please hear him.

A. Lincoln

To David P. Holloway, *Commissioner of Patents*

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Aug. 20, 1862.

Com^r^ of Patents,

Sir: My friend, Capt. Diller, bearer of this, wishes the assistance of Dr. Wetherell, chemist in your Bureau, to make an experiment, in which he, Capt Diller, trusts Dr. Wetherell, the government wishing, as yet, not to be trusted with the secret.

Please let Dr. Wetherell give him the assistance.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

Endorsement on Letter of John W. Shaffer [1]

Executive Mansion
Sept. 17, 1862

As I told you yesterday of what disposition is to be made of them and whether they can be made self-supporting (the negroes) must be decided in the Department of the Gulf, and I believe Butler is more likely to succeed than any other man I know. . . .

The writer of this is a personal acquaintance of mine who has been on duty at New Orleans as a Quarter Master. I have thought it not improper that the Sec. of War should see his suggestions.

A. Lincoln

To Governor William Sprague [2]

Executive Mansion
Washington, Sep. 20, 1862

His Excellency
Gov. William Sprague —

My dear Sir: I am sure you can not be ignorant of my strong desire to oblige you, so far as in my own judgement, I consistently can; but I can not now

[1] Appointed from Illinois as Assistant Quarter Master, in the Volunteer Army, Aug. 3, 1861, and made a Colonel and Additional Aide-de-Camp, Jan. 30, 1862.

[2] Governor of Rhode Island, 1860–1863.

so do, that, the procuring of which, seems to be the mission of your friend, J. A. Perry.

Yours truly A Lincoln

To the Assistant Surgeon-General [1]

Assistant Surgeon General please see Dr. Stipp. He says he is ordered to Gen. McClellan's camp while his preparations — tools, so to speak — are at Corinth, Miss. Not intending to interfere by an order, I still would be glad if he could be sent to Corinth.

A. Lincoln

Oct 6, 1862.

To Secretary Chase

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 8, 1862.

Hon. Sec. of Treasury

My dear Sir: I now understand that a Commission has been sent to some gentleman as Collector for the 13th District of New York, in place of Mr. Masten whom I appointed at the request of Hon. Mr. Steele.[2] If I have signed a Commission superseding him I have done it inadvertently, not re-

[1] Written on two sides of a card. From a facsimile in an article on "Lincoln as a Boy knew Him," by John Langdon Kaine, in the Century, LXIII, 555, Feb., 1913.

[2] John B. Steele, of Kingston, N.Y., Representative in the Thirty-Seventh and Thirty-Eighth Congresses.

membering having done so at all, and not having known any just reason for doing so.

Having appointed Mr. Masten deliberately, I do not wish to revoke such appointment without a sufficient reason; and, of course, I do not wish to be made to appear as having prevaricated. If Mr. Masten has tendered a sufficient bond, I wish him to have the office.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln.

To Mrs. Lincoln

Washington, Nov. 9, 1862.

Mrs. A. Lincoln,
Boston, Mass.

Mrs. Cuthbert and Aunt Mary want to move to the White House because it has grown so cold at Soldiers' Home. Shall they?

A. Lincoln

To General Carl Schurz [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 10, 1862.

"Private & Confidential"

Gen. Schurz.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 8th was, to-day, read to me by Mrs. S[churz]. We have lost the elections;

[1] From *Speeches, Correspondence, and Political Papers of Carl Schurz*, New York, 1913, I, 211.

and it is natural that each of us will believe, and say, it has been because his peculiar views was not made sufficiently prominent. I think I know what it was, but I may be mistaken. Three main causes told the whole story. 1. The democrats were left in a majority by our friends going to the war. 2. The democrats observed this & determined to re-instate themselves in power, and 3. Our newspapers, by vilifying and disparaging the administration, furnished them all the weapons to do it with. Certainly, the ill-success of the war had much to do with this.

You give a different set of reasons. If you had not made the following statements, I should not have suspected them to be true. "The defeat of the administration is the administration's own fault." (Opinion.) "It admitted its professed opponents to its counsels." (Asserted as a fact.) "It placed the Army, now a great power in this Republic, into the hands of its enemies." (Asserted as a fact.) "In all personal questions to be hostile to the party of the Government seemed to be a title to consideration." (Asserted as a fact.) "If to forget the great rule, that if you are true to your friends, your friends will be true to you, and that you make your enemies stronger by placing them upon an equality with your friends." "Is it surprising that the opponents of the administration should have got into their hands the government of

the principal states, after they have had for a long time the principal management of the war, the great business of the national government."

I can not dispute about the matter of opinion. On the three matters (stated as facts) I shall be glad to have your evidence upon them when I shall meet you. The plain facts, as they appear to me, are these. The administration came into power, very largely in a minority of the popular vote. Notwithstanding this, it distributed to its party friends as nearly all the civil patronage as any administration ever did. The war came. The administration could not even start in this, without assistance outside of its party. It was mere nonsense to suppose a minority could put down a majority in rebellion. Mr. Schurz (now Gen. Schurz) was about here then & I do not recollect that he then considered all who were not republicans, were enemies of the government, and that none of them must be appointed to military positions. He will correct me if I am mistaken. It so happened that very few of our friends had a military education or were of the profession of arms. It would have been a question whether the war should be conducted on military knowledge, or on political affinity, only that our own friends (I think Mr. Schurz included) seemed to think that such a question was inadmissible. Accordingly I have scarcely appointed a democrat to a command, who was not urged by

many republicans and opposed by none. It was so as to McClellan. He was first brought forward by the Republican Governor of Ohio, & claimed, and contended for at the same time by the Republican Governor of Pennsylvania. I received recommendations from the republican delegations in Congress, and I believe every one of them recommended a majority of democrats. But, after all many Republicans were appointed; and I mean no disparagement to them when I say I do not see that their superiority of success has been so marked as to throw great suspicion on the good faith of those who are not Republicans.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Hamilton Rowan Gamble, *Governor of Missouri*

I have not yet been able to get the document but have the Secretary of War hunting for it.

A. Lincoln

Nov 15, 1862.

To General Frederick Steele, General John Smith Phelps (*Military Governor of Arkansas*), and Others

Washington, Nov. 18, 1862.

General Steele, Governor Phelps, and all having military and naval authority, under the United States, within the State of Arkansas:

Mr. William M. McPherson goes to Arkansas seeking to have such of the people thereof as desire to avoid the unsatisfactory prospect before them, and to have peace again upon the old terms under the constitution of the United States, to manifest such desire by elections of members to the Congress of the United States particularly, and perhaps a legislature, State officers, and United States Senators, friendly to their object. I shall be glad for you and each of you to aid them and all others acting for this object, as much as possible.

In all available ways give the people a chance to express their wishes at these elections. Follow law and forms of law as far as convenient, but at all events get the expression of the largest number of the people possible. All see how such action will connect with and affect the proclamation of September 22nd. Of course the men elected should be gentlemen of character, willing to swear support to the Constitution as of old and known to be above reasonable suspicion of duplicity.

Yours very respectfully, A. Lincoln.

To George S. Boutwell,[1] *Commissioner of Internal Revenue*

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 24, 1862.

Com^R of Internal Revenue

Sir: It was by mere oversight that the Eastern Shore counties of Virginia, and some other counties of Hon. Mr. Segar's [2] District, were not classed as loyal in the proclamation of July. I intend to set this right the first convenient opportunity. Meantime, please consult with Mr. Segar, and act with his District, in regard to the Revenue, as with a loyal District.

Yours truly A. Lincoln

To Cyrus Aldrich [3]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Dec 6, 1862.

Hon Cyrus Aldrich.

My dear Sir: In answer to your inquiries I can only say, at this distance of time, that I remember the Land-officers at Vandalia, Palestine, Danville and Dixon, in the state of Illinois, who went in under the administration of President Taylor,

[1] Formerly Governor of Massachusetts and later Secretary of the Treasury under Grant and Senator from Massachusetts.

[2] Joseph E. Segar, of Elizabeth City, Va., a Member of Congress, 1862–1863.

[3] Representative from Minnesota in the Thirty-Sixth and Thirty-Seventh Congresses.

afterwards made a claim in connection with the location of Land warrants in the respective offices, which claim was disallowed by the accounting officers at Washington; that the claim, and consequently the question in all the cases was the same, and that the officers of whom you were one, determined to test the legality of the claim in a suit against one of them which might be brought by the government; and I think the District Attorney also agreed to it, so far as to sue one only. — Daniel Clapp of Danville and Judge Logan and myself were engaged to defend; and while I do not now remember the exact question, I do remember that I *expected the defense would succeed, and I am sure there was nothing in the claim, to cast any imputation upon the parties making it.* My recollection is that the defendants sought, or rather, *the single defendant*, constantly sought to bring the suit to trial, *that the District Attorney was never ready*, and that the case lingered many years, and, as I think *was still on the docket when I came on here.*

Yours very truly, A. Lincoln.

To Secretary Smith

Executive Mansion
Washington, Jan. 8, 1863.

Hon Caleb B. Smith.

My dear Sir: I wish you would tell me in writing, exactly what you did promise Watt about going to

Europe last Spring. If it was in writing send me a copy; if merely verbal, write it as accurately as you can from memory, and please send it to me at once.

Yours as ever.

A. Lincoln.

To James R. Doolittle

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Jan 22, 1863.

Hon. J. R. Doolittle,

My dear Sir: I find I cannot postpone the appointment of Asst. Sec. of Interior to the end of the session. I therefore shall have to try to recognize Mr. Potter in some other way.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln

To George E. Fawcett

Executive Mansion,
Washington January 26, 1863.

My dear Sir: Allow me to thank you cordially for your thoughtful courtesy in sending me a copy of your "Emancipation March."

Your obedient servt,

A. Lincoln

Geo. E. Fawcett Esq.
Muscatine Iowa.

Endorsement on Letter of General Franz Sigel

I believe an increased Cavalry force would be valuable, but I have not promised that, to suit the convenience of any officer, I would, however inconvenient to the government, raise one immediately. I have tried, in regard to Gen. Schurz and Gen. Stahl, to oblige all round; but it seems to get worse and worse. If Gen. Sigel would say distinctly and unconditionally, what he desires done, about the command of the forces he has, I should try to do it; but when he has plans, conditioned upon my raising new forces, which is inconvenient for me to do, it is drawing upon me too severely.

A. Lincoln.

Jan. 26, 1863.

To General Franz Sigel [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, February 5, 1863.

Major General Sigel

My dear Sir: Gen. Schurz thinks I was a little cross in my last note to you. If I was, I ask pardon. If I do get up a little temper I have no sufficient time to keep it up.

I believe I will not now issue any new order in relation to the matter in question; but I will be

[1] From a facsimile in the New York *Staats-Zeitung*.

obliged, if Gen. Hooker consistently can, and will give an increased Cavalry command to Gen. Stahl. You may show Gen. Hooker this letter if you choose.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To the Secretaries of War and the Navy [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Feb. 16th, 1863.

Hon. Secretary of War &
Hon Secretary of the Navy.

Gentlemen: — Please appoint an officer from each of your Departments, for the purpose of testing the incendiary shell and incendiary fluid, of A. Berry, and reporting to me whether it would be proper to introduce the Shell, or the fluid in some other form, one or both, into the Military or Naval service of the United States.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

To the Commandant at Fort McHenry [2]

Executive Mansion
March 13, 1863.

To the Commandant
At Fort McHenry:

General: — You will deliver to the bearer, Mrs. Winston, her son, now held a prisoner of War in

[1] Original owned by P. F. Madigan.

[2] At Baltimore. The letter is reprinted from *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln by Distinguished Men of his Time*, edited by

Fort McHenry, and permit her to take him where she will, upon his taking the proper parole never again to take up arms against the United States.

Abraham Lincoln.

To General Totten

Gen. Totten, please see Judge Mott,[1] now Territorial Delegate for Nevada.

A. Lincoln

April 27, 1863.

To Surgeon-General William A. Hammond

The Surgeon-General will oblige me if he can consistently assign Chaplain Van Santvoord to the convalescent camp for a few months.

A. Lincoln.

May 1, 1863.

To Secretary Stanton

Head Quarters A. P.
May 7, 1863.

Hon Secretary of War.

Have you any news? and if any what is it? I expect to be up to-night.

A. Lincoln

Allen Thorndike Rice, New York, 1888, p. 507, where the whole story is told by E. W. Andrews, who was chief of staff to Gen. W. W. Morris, the commandant, at the time when the incident occurred.

[1] Gordon N. Mott. He took his seat as a Delegate in Congress, Jan. 11, 1864.

To Governor Richard Yates

If the Governor of Illinois, in his discretion, see fit to reappoint Lieut. Gray to the place he was dismissed from, if it is still vacant, or to appoint him to any other Military Office, the disability now resting upon him to be so appointed, is hereby removed.

A. Lincoln

May 25, 1863.

To Isaac N. Arnold [1]

Private & confidential

Executive Mansion,
Washington, May 26, 1863.

Hon. I. N. Arnold,

My dear Sir: Your letter advising me to dismiss Gen Halleck is received. If the public believe, as you say, that he has driven Fremont, Butler, and Sigel from the service, they believe what I know to be false; so that if I was to yield to it, it would only be to be instantly beset by some other demand based on another falsehood equally gross. You know yourself that Fremont was relieved at his own request, before Halleck could have had any-

[1] A Republican Congressman from Illinois, 1861–1865, and author of *History of Abraham Lincoln* (1867) and *Life of Abraham Lincoln* (1885). Original in the Isaac N. Arnold Collection.

thing to do with it — went out near the end of June, while Halleck only came in near the end of July. I know equally well that no wish of Halleck's had anything to do with the removal of Butler or Sigel. Sigel, like Fremont, was relieved at his own request, pressed upon me almost constantly for six months, and upon complaints that could have been made as justly by almost any corps commander in the army, and more justly by some. So much for the way they got out. Now a word as to their not getting back. In the early spring, Gen. Fremont sought active service again; and, as it seemed to me, sought it in a very good and reasonable spirit. But he holds the highest rank in the Army, except McClellan, so that I could not well offer him a subordinate command. Was I to displace Hooker, or Hunter, or Rosecrans, or Grant, or Banks? If not, what was I to do? And, similar to this, is the case of both the others. One month after Gen Butler's return, I offered him a position in which I thought and still think he could have done himself the highest credit, and the country the greatest service, but he declined it. When Gen. Sigel was relieved, at his own request as I have said, of course I had to put another in command of his corps. Can I instantly thrust that other one [out] to put him in again?

And now my good friend, let me turn your eyes upon another point. Whether Gen Grant shall or

shall not consummate the capture of Vicksburg, his campaign from the beginning of the month up to the twenty-second day of it, is one of the most brilliant in the world. His corps commanders & Division commanders, in part, are McClernand, McPherson, Sherman, Steele, Hovey, Blair & Logan. And yet taking Gen Grant and these seven of his generals, and you can scarcely name one of them that has not been constantly denounced even opposed by the same men who are now so anxious to get Halleck out, and Fremont & Butler & Sigel in. I believe no one of them went through the Senate easily, and certainly one failed to get through at all. I am compelled to take a more impartial and unprejudiced view of things. Without claiming to be your superior, which I do not, my position enables me to understand my duty in all these matters better than you possibly can, and I hope you do not yet doubt my integrity.

Your friend as ever,

A. Lincoln.

Endorsement on Application of Richard Middleton

I understand that Richard Middleton, named within, has an application before Col Long, for employment; and while I do not personally know him, the within names are so good and ample that

I do not hesitate to say I shall be very glad, if he can get the employment.

A. Lincoln

June 4, 1863.

To Major-General David Hunter

Executive Mansion.
Washington, June 9, 1863.

My dear Sir: I find it still impossible to answer at length your communication received through Captain Kinzie. I am unwilling to detain him longer, and have directed him to return to Hilton Head.

Very truly yours,

A. Lincoln

To Gustave Koerner [1]

Executive Mansion
Washington, 12 June 1863

My Dear Governor: The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th May, which he received this morning. He begs me to assure you that there is no foundation for the impertinent rumor of your recall, and that the matter has been left unnoticed simply from the irresponsible character of its origin. He

[1] Then Minister to Spain (1862–1865).

directs me to renew to you the assurance of his undiminished confidence and esteem.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your obt Sert
JOHN HAY

HIS EXCELLENCY
GUSTAVUS KOERNER
&c &c

TO SECRETARY STANTON

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D.C. July 29, 1863.

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR.

Dear Sir: I understand the Gov. of New Hampshire is anxious in regard to trouble about the draft, and desires that the 5th N.H. should be sent home on that account. The regiment is now here, going down the Potomac, somewhere, and contains, as I hear, only 115 men.

Yours truly, A. LINCOLN

TO GENERAL GEORGE STONEMAN [1]

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, Aug. 1863.

GEN STONEMAN

I am appealed to in behalf of E. S. Doty, Co. A., 1st Vermont Cavalry, whose friends do not know

[1] Major-General of Volunteers.

where he is, but fear he has been executed, or is under sentence of death, somewhere, as a deserter.

Records in these cases do not necessarily come, and in this case none is here. Please ascertain, and inform me, if you can, how the case stands.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Governor Joseph A. Gilmore [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington Aug. 7, 1863.

Joseph A. Gilmore, Gov. N.H.

My dear Governor Gilmore: I thank you very heartily for your kind invitation to visit Concord, and especially for the exceedingly cordial terms in which you have conveyed it. I very much regret that I cannot at present accept it. I am by no means certain that I can leave Washington at all this summer. *The exacting nature of my official duties renders it exceedingly improbable.* I assure you however that I am none the less sincerely grateful for your kind intentions and for the expressions of personal good will contained in your letter.

I am very truly yours,

A. Lincoln.

[1] A letter in the handwriting of Secretary John Hay, signed by Lincoln.

To Secretary Seward

Hon. Secretary of State:—

I have for a good while had this particular question under consideration; and my judgement [is] that the within, substantially, should be the answer to Lord Lyons.

A. Lincoln

Aug. 10, 1863.

To Mrs. Elizabeth J. Grimsley [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, August 14, 1863.

My dear Cousin Lizzie: I have, by the law, two classes of appointments to make to the naval school — ten of each, to the year. The first class, according to the law, must be of the families of meritorious Naval Officers; while the other class does not have such restrictions. You see at once that if I have a vacancy in the first class, I cannot appoint Johnny to it; and I have intended for months and still intend, to appoint him to the very first vacancy I can get in the other class.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

[1] See telegram, Aug. 24, 1863, in *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, Tandy's ed., 1905, ix, 91. Copy furnished by Mr. Judd Stewart.

To Secretary Stanton [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Aug. 20, 1863.

Hon. Secretary of War.

Dear Sir: Since leaving the telegraph office, it has occurred to me that it might be well to have Gen. Lockwood send down to us, the two men he mentions as just arrived from Fredericksburg.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Stanton

Secretary of War, please see this Pittsburg boy. He is very young, and I shall be satisfied with whatever you do with him.

A. Lincoln

August 21, 1863.

To Secretary Stanton

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Aug. 29, 1863.

Hon. Secretary of War:—

Dr. Brown, the embalmer,[2] who has so long gone with our Armies, says he is now prevented in

[1] Original owned by Mr. Judd Stewart.

[2] Charles D. Brown, who embalmed President Lincoln's body at his death, and at the request of the Secretary of War accompanied the remains to Springfield, Illinois.

consequence of the loss of a paper. I suppose he should be given another, unless there be some reason to the contrary unknown to me.

Yours truly A. Lincoln

To Attorney-General Bates

Executive Mansion,
Washington Sept. 2, 1863.

Hon. Attorney General.

Satisfactory evidence having been produced to me that William A. Stephens of Shelby county, Kentucky, is under an indictment for treason in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Kentucky; and that said Stephens, under a certain proclamation tendering upon certain terms, did, on or about the fifth day of June, 1863, and since the finding of said indictment, take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and give bond with security accordingly, I do hereby pardon him for the offense charged in the indictment, and for all similar offenses up to the said fifth of June, 1863.

Please make out a pardon accordingly.

A. Lincoln.

To Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Sept. 19, 1863.

My dear Sir: In strong hopes that you have the old flag flying in Texas by this time, we are about

sending you Gen. Hamilton [1] to act as Military Governor there. I believe you know him; but it can do no harm for me to say I really believe him to be a man of worth and ability; and one who, by his acquaintance there, can scarcely fail to be efficient in re-inaugurating the National authority. He has suffered so long and painful an exile, from his home and family, that I feel a deep sympathy for him, and I scarcely need say that I am sure he has received, and will receive the same from you.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Robert A. Maxwell [2]

Telegram written but not sent

"Cypher"

Executive Mansion,
Washington, D.C. Sept. 23, 1863.

Robert A. Maxwell
New York

I hasten to say that in the state of information we have here, nothing could be more ungracious

[1] Andrew Jackson Hamilton, jurist; born in Alabama, Jan. 28, 1815; removed to Texas in 1846; elected to Congress in 1851; opposed the secession of Texas; Nov. 14, 1862, appointed Brigadier-General and Military Governor of Texas by President Lincoln; in 1865 appointed Provisional Governor by President Johnson; died in Austin, Texas, Apr. 10, 1875.

[2] One of President Lincoln's self-appointed advisers. After writing this dispatch and handing it to the operator, the Presi-

than to indulge any suspicion towards Gen. Thomas. It is doubtful whether his heroism and skill exhibited last Sunday afternoon [1] has ever been surpassed in the world.

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Stanton

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 9, 1863.

Hon. Secretary of War.

Sir: Mrs. Thomas G. Clemsin is a daughter of the late Hon John C. Calhoun, and is now residing near Bladensburg in Maryland.

She understands that her son, Calhoun Clemsin, is now a prisoner of War to us at Johnson's Island; and she asks the privilege merely of visiting him. With your approbation, I consent for her to go.[2]

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

dent decided not to answer his meddlesome telegram. Printed and reproduced in facsimile in David Homer Bates's *Lincoln in the Telegraph Office*.

[1] In the Battle of Chickamauga.

[2] Secretary Stanton wrote, "Any written communication may be forwarded under cover and unsealed through Col. Hoffman."

To the Officers of the Pacific Railroad

Executive Mansion
Washington, Oct. 16, 1863.

To the Officers of
The Pacific Railroad.

Richard P. Morgan bearer of this, is my personal acquaintance and friend, whom I would like to have obliged in any reasonable way.

I became acquainted with him while he was acting as a Railroad Civil Engineer, and I know him long enough and well enough in this capacity to believe him to be both competent and faithful.

Yours, &c

A. Lincoln

To —— Mellen

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct 22, 1863.

If Mr. Mellen can conveniently oblige Mr Sweeney I shall be glad; but I would not have him do it otherwise.

A. Lincoln

To General George Stoneman

Gen. Stoneman,

Please see and hear patiently my friend, George I. Bergen, who will hand you this.

A. Lincoln.

October 30, 1863.

Unaddressed Note

I am informed as a certainty, that a lady coming from Culpeper C.H. to Warrenton, met Walker's Division going south, who said they were going to Petersburg.

A. Lincoln

To Stephen C. Massett

Washington, Dec. 4, 1863

Mr. Stephen C. Massett.

My Dear Sir: Allow me to thank you very cordially for your kindness in sending me a copy of your book, "Drifting About."

I am very truly,

Your Obed't Serv't, Abraham Lincoln.

To Thurlow Weed

Executive Mansion,
Dec 17, 1863.

Hon. T. Weed.

Dear Sir: Allow me to introduce my friends, Joshua F. Speed [1] and Joshua Tevis of Kentucky. You may rely implicitly on whatever they may tell you; and I think their mission an important one.

Yours very truly.

A. Lincoln.

[1] An old and intimate friend of Lincoln's and a leading citizen of Louisville.

To Bayard Taylor

Executive Mansion,
Washington Dec 25, 1863.

Hon Bayard Taylor,

My dear Sir: I think a good lecture or two on Serfs, Serfdom, and Emancipation in Russia would be both interesting and valuable. Could not you get up such a thing?

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Welles

[No date]

Secretary Welles, —

The United States don't need the services of boys who disobey their parents. Let both Snyder and Ratcliffe be discharged.

A. Lincoln.

Unaddressed Note

Executive Mansion
Washington D.C.

This lady, Miss Weirman wants employment, and [I] shall be obliged to any Head of a Department or Bureau who can give it to her.

A. Lincoln

January 14, 1864.

To Secretary Stanton

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Feby 12, 1864.

To the Secretary of War.

Dear Sir: Herewith is the resignation of Mr. McElroth, as General Appraiser at New York. Send me a nomination for James Freeland as his successor unless you know some reason to the contrary.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

P.S. The recommendations of Mr. Freeland which seem good and ample are herewith.

A. L.

To Misses Clara and Julia Brown

Executive Mansion,
Washington March 2, 1864.

Misses Clara & Julia Brown.

The Afgan you sent is received, and gratefully accepted. I especially like my little friends; [1] and although you have never seen me, I am glad you remember me for the country's sake, and even more, that you remember, and try to help the poor soldiers.

Yours very truly A. Lincoln

[1] Referring to photographs of the donors which accompanied the gift.

To Postmaster-General Blair

Executive Mansion,
Washington March 21, 1864.

To the Hon Postmaster General.

Dear Sir: These young ladies, Miss Dugger and Miss Beattie, are from Illinois and want employment. They are loyal and worthy and I shall be glad indeed, if places can be found for them.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

In An Autograph Album for a Sanitary Fair

I never knew a man who wished to be himself a slave.

Consider if you know any *good* thing, that no man desires for himself.

A. Lincoln

March 22, 1864.

To Attorney-General Bates

Attorney General, please send me a nomination as within requested.

A. Lincoln

March 24, 1864.

To Colonel Joseph Holt, *Judge-Advocate-General*

Executive Mansion
Washington March 28, 1864.

To Judge Advocate General.

Dear Sir: I am told that there is a man in the Old Capitol Prison by the name of Benedict A. King on some charge of Desertion.

Report me the facts of his case, if you can.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln

To Colonel Worthington

Executive Mansion
Washington March 31, 1864.

Col. Worthington, —

If Major General Schenck will say in writing upon this sheet that he believes the public service would be advanced by your being placed at the head of a Regiment in the field, I will remove any legal disability resting upon you so that the Governor of Ohio may appoint you to so command a regiment.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

To Captain Gustavus V. Fox [1]

Capt. Fox, please see and hear the bearer, Mr. Sawyer.

A. Lincoln

May 21, 1864.

Unaddressed Note [2]

Allow Charles H. Jonas now a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island a parole of three weeks to visit his dying father, Abraham Jonas, at Quincy, Ills.

A. Lincoln

June 2nd 1864.

To General Henry W. Slocum

Executive Mansion,
Washington June 6. 1864.

Major General Slocum

My friend Thomas A. Marshall, who will hand you this, informs me that he has some difficulty in managing a plantation in your Department. It may be that you withhold nothing from him which can safely be granted; and I do not make any order in the case; but simply wish to say I personally know, so far as such things can be known, that

[1] Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

[2] From Isaac Markens's *Abraham Lincoln and the Jews*, where it is quoted from the records of the War Department. See letter to Abraham Jonas, p. 130.

Mr. Marshall is loyal, truthful, and honorable; and that I shall be glad for him to be obliged in any not unreasonable way.

Yours truly A Lincoln

Endorsement on Letter of Lieutenant James B. Jameson [1]

July 4, 1864

I believe I need no escort, and unless the Secretary of War directs, none need attend me.

A. Lincoln.

To Joseph Casey [2]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, July 6, 1864.

Hon Joseph Casey.

My dear Sir: I am urged to appoint an assistant attorney to your court in place of Mr. McPherson. I believe you once told me, but I am not sure that I correctly remember, what is the wish of the court in regard to the dismissal or retaining of Mr. McPherson.

Please tell me again.

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

[1] The letter informed the President that Lieutenant Jameson had been ordered to report to him with twenty men to act as an escort.

[2] Chief Justice of the United States Court of Claims. Original owned by Mr. Judd Stewart.

To Mrs. Esther Stockton [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington July 8, 1864.

Mrs. Esther Stockton.

Madam: Learning that you who have passed the eighty-fourth year of life, have given to the soldiers, some three hundred pairs of stockings, knitted by yourself, I wish to offer you my thanks. Will you also convey my thanks to those young ladies who have done so much in feeding our soldiers while passing through your city?

Yours truly, A. Lincoln

To Governor John A. Andrew

If the Governor of Massachusetts understands the case and wishes to give Capt Brooks another commission the disability is hereby removed enabling him to do so.

A. Lincoln

July 18, 1864.

Pass for Colonel Eaton

Allow the bearer, Col. Eaton, to pass to and from Gen Grant at City Point, Va.

A. Lincoln

August 12, 1864

[1] Original owned by granddaughter of Mrs. Stockton, Pittsburgh, Pa.

To General Samuel R. Curtis

Executive Mansion
Washington September 1, 1864

Major General Curtis

The bearer of this, Mr. George K. Otis, General Superintendent of the Overland Mail Line, has called on me seeking protection for the line against the Indians. I can think of nothing better than to ask you to have a full conference with him on the subject, and to do the very best you can for this important interest, consistently with the other interests in your charge.

Yours truly

A Lincoln

To Secretary Stanton

Executive Mansion
Washington, Sept. 9, 1864.

Hon. Secretary of War.

My dear Sir: I am appealed to by the proprietors of papers here, because they have to get telegraphed back to them from New York, matter which goes from the War Department.

Might not this be avoided without harm or inconvenience to any?

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

To Secretary Fessenden

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 3, 1864.

Hon. Secretary of the Treasury:

My dear Sir, — Mr Hallowell who brings this, has a very meritorious Cotton case and I hope it may be found that the same sort of thing can be done for him that was for Judge Johnson.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

Pardon and Pass for Roswell McIntyre [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct. 4, 1864.

Upon condition that Roswell McIntyre of Co. E. 6th Regiment of New York Cavalry returns to his Regiment and faithfully serves out his term, making up for lost time, or until otherwise lawfully discharged, he is fully pardoned for any supposed desertion heretofore committed; and this paper is his pass to go to his regiment.

Abraham Lincoln.

[1] Taken from the body of R. McIntyre at the battle of Five Forks, Va., 1865.

To General Horatio G. Wright

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Oct 17, 1864.

S. S. Bradford, whose residence is in Culpeper Co., Va., and who is a brother-in-law of Gen. H. G. Wright is now on parole not to go south of Philadelphia. If Gen. Wright will request it in writing on this sheet, I will allow Mr. Bradford to go home to Culpeper.[1]

A. Lincoln.

Endorsement

Let this appointment be made if there is a vacancy.

A. Lincoln

Nov 7, 1864.

Dispatch to A. G. Henry[2]

Washington, Nov. 9, 1864

To A. G. Henry, Surveyor-General,
Olympia, Washington Territory.

With returns, and states of which we are confident, the re-election of the President is considered

[1] See pass for Mr. Bradford on page 250.

[2] This dispatch was dictated by Mr. Lincoln to Noah Brooks, whom he asked to sign it for obvious reasons, but he had it sent from the War Department. The text, without the address, was printed in Mr. Brooks's *Washington in Lincoln's Time*, New York, 1895.

certain, while it is not certain that McClellan has carried any state, though the chances are that he has carried New Jersey and Kentucky.

To Secretary Stanton

Hon. Sec. of War,

Please see Mr Gear on this question of furnishing some small arm ammunition to loyal people in Northern Alabama.

Nov. 16, 1864. A. Lincoln

Endorsement on Letter of A. Johnson to Secretary of War in Favor of James H. Woodward

If another Commissary is needed, let this gentleman be appointed.

Nov. 21, 1864. A. Lincoln.

To General Hovey [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 29, 1864.

Major General Hovey, *or*
whoever may have charge
at the proper time:

Whenever John B. Castleman shall be tried, if convicted and sentenced, suspend execution

[1] Copied from a facsimile printed in the *Louisville Post* in connection with the centennial ceremonies at Lincoln's birth-

until further orders from me and send me the record.

A. Lincoln.

An Interview with Two Ladies [1]

On Thursday of last week two ladies from Tennessee came before the President asking the release of their husbands held as prisoners of war at Johnson's Island. They were put off until Friday when they came again; and were again put off until Saturday. At each of the interviews one of the ladies urged that her husband was a religious man. On Saturday the President ordered the release of the prisoners, and then said to the lady, "You say your husband is a religious man; tell him when you

place, Sept. 4, 1916. The circumstances as given in the *Post* are as follows: Castleman was a Confederate caught within the Union lines and was to be tried as a spy. His sister, Virginia Castleman, wife of Judge Samuel M. Breckinridge, interceded in his behalf. The military court was convened from time to time and as often postponed, until finally the War came to an end. Castleman was banished from the United States for eighteen months, and never knew of this order till fifteen years afterwards, when Judge Breckenridge gave it to him. President Lincoln in handing the order to Judge Breckenridge said, "Sam, this is for you and Virginia, entrusted in confidence, with the condition that its existence shall not be known unless the emergency arises for which this letter provides."

[1] This was written by President Lincoln in November, 1864, for Noah Brooks, the newspaper correspondent. Mr. Lincoln entitled the article "The President's last, shortest, and best speech." The copy was made from a facsimile of Lincoln's handwriting.

meet him, that I say I am not much of a judge of religion; but that, in my opinion, the religion that sets men to rebel and fight against their government, because, as they think, that government does not sufficiently help *some* men to eat their bread in the sweat of *other* men's faces, is not the sort of religion upon which people can get to heaven."

A. Lincoln.

Note of Commendation

Executive Mansion.
Dec. 1, 1864.

I do not personally know these ladies, but very cheerfully endorse Judge Wylie and Mayor Wallack, and shall be glad if the ladies can find employment in any Department or Bureau.

A. Lincoln.

To Secretary Fessenden [1]

Will the Secretary of the Treasury please see and hear Mr. Gumpert, so well vouched within?

A. Lincoln

Dec. 15, 1864.

[1] Endorsement on a recommendation of G. Gumpert, applying for appointment in the Treasury Department.

Pass for S. S. Bradford [1]

Allow the bearer, S. S. Bradford, to pass by any route to his home in Culpeper Co. Virginia and there to remain so long as he does not misbehave.

A. Lincoln

Dec 21, 1864.

To Secretary Fessenden [2]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, December 29th, 1864.

My dear Sir: The President of the United States will be pleased to receive the Members of the Cabinet and their families on New Years Day (Monday January 2, 1865) at twelve o Clock M. precisely.

Your ob't serv't

Jno. G. Nicolay
Priv. Sec.

Hon Secretary of the Treasury.

Memorandum on an Application

File as an application for District Attorney in Georgia, when an appointment shall be made.

A. Lincoln

Jan 13, 1865

[1] See note to Gen. Horatio G. Wright, on page 246.
[2] Original in the collection of Mr. Charles W. McLellan.

To Secretary Stanton

Executive Mansion.
January 22, 1865.

Hon. Sec of War.

The Governor[1] has a pretty good case. I feel sure he is more than half right. We don't want him to feel cross and we in the wrong. Try and fix it with him.

A. Lincoln

To Secretary Seward[2]

Will the Secretary of State please see and hear the bearer Mr. B. A. Ulrich and oblige him if he consistently can. He is a young man raised in the place of my residence and of a most respectable family as he also is himself.

A. Lincoln.

January 30, 1865

To the Provost-Marshal-General[3]

Executive Mansion,
Washington Feb'y. 6th, 1865.

Provost Marshal General —

These gentlemen distinctly say to me this morning that what they want is the means from your

[1] Governor R. E. Fenton of New York.
[2] Endorsement on application for a consulship.
[3] See *Works*, Nicolay and Hay, Tandy's ed., 1905, xi, 4, for

office of showing their people that the quota assigned to them is right.

They think it will take but little time — two hours, they say.

Please give them double the time, and every facility you can.

Yours truly.

A. Lincoln

To Samuel S. Cox

Will see Hon. S. S. Cox at 9½ A.M. to morrow, if he pleases to call.

A. Lincoln

March 2, 1865.

Pass for Judge Dixon

Whom it may concern:

Allow the bearer, Judge Dixon, to pass to the Officer in Command at Nashville, Tenn., to whom the Judge is commended, as worthy of reasonable facilities for passing about Kentucky and Tennessee.

A. Lincoln.

March 7, 1865.

order on same subject. This letter was printed in *Writings*, Lapsley ed., VII, 294.

To Mrs. Amanda H. Hall [1]

Executive Mansion,
Washington, March 20, 1865.

Mrs. Amanda H. Hall

Madam: Induced by a letter of yours to your brother, and shown me by him, I send you what follows below.

Respectfully A. Lincoln

"Fondly do we hope — fervently do we pray — that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, 'The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

Abraham Lincoln

To General Godfrey Weitzel

U.S. Military Telegraph.
By telegraph from City Point
March 29, 1865

To Gen Weitzel

What if anything, have you observed, on your front to-day?

A. Lincoln

[1] Copied from a facsimile.

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